

**WE ARE THE...**

**THAMESHEAD BENEFICE**

The parishes of Coates, Rodmarton, Poole Keynes, Somerford Keynes with Shorncote, Sapperton with Frampton Mansell and Kemble.

# MISSION

Thameshead Benefice is seeking to appoint Priest-in-charge to **lead and support** our ongoing ministry in the South Cotswolds.

We are looking for a confident and inspiring leader to **identify and release** the gifts and abilities of our members and to discern God's way forward for the parishes and the benefice; someone **respectful of different styles** of worship and determined to help everyone flourish;

**We are** not looking for someone who wants to do everything and control everything, we need an enabler and equipper who **enjoys seeing people grow** in their lives in Christ. If your friends joke with you that you are a bit of a "control freak" this is not the job for you!

Do please read the Profile in full to get the right perspective of our Benefice. It **embraces a broad range of worship styles** in its different parishes ranging from the sacramental based on the Book of Common Prayer through the recognisably Anglican liturgies to the evangelical/charismatic. Whilst ministry in this context presents challenges we honour and respect each tradition and want **each to be nourished and to prosper.**

# WHO AND WHERE ARE WE?

Thameshead Benefice is a group of six parishes lying broadly south and west of the popular market town of Cirencester, the "Capital of the Cotswolds" [www.cirencester.co.uk](http://www.cirencester.co.uk)

The individual parish profiles are appended to this Benefice profile. Each church presents a different experience, and we celebrate the diversity of worship.

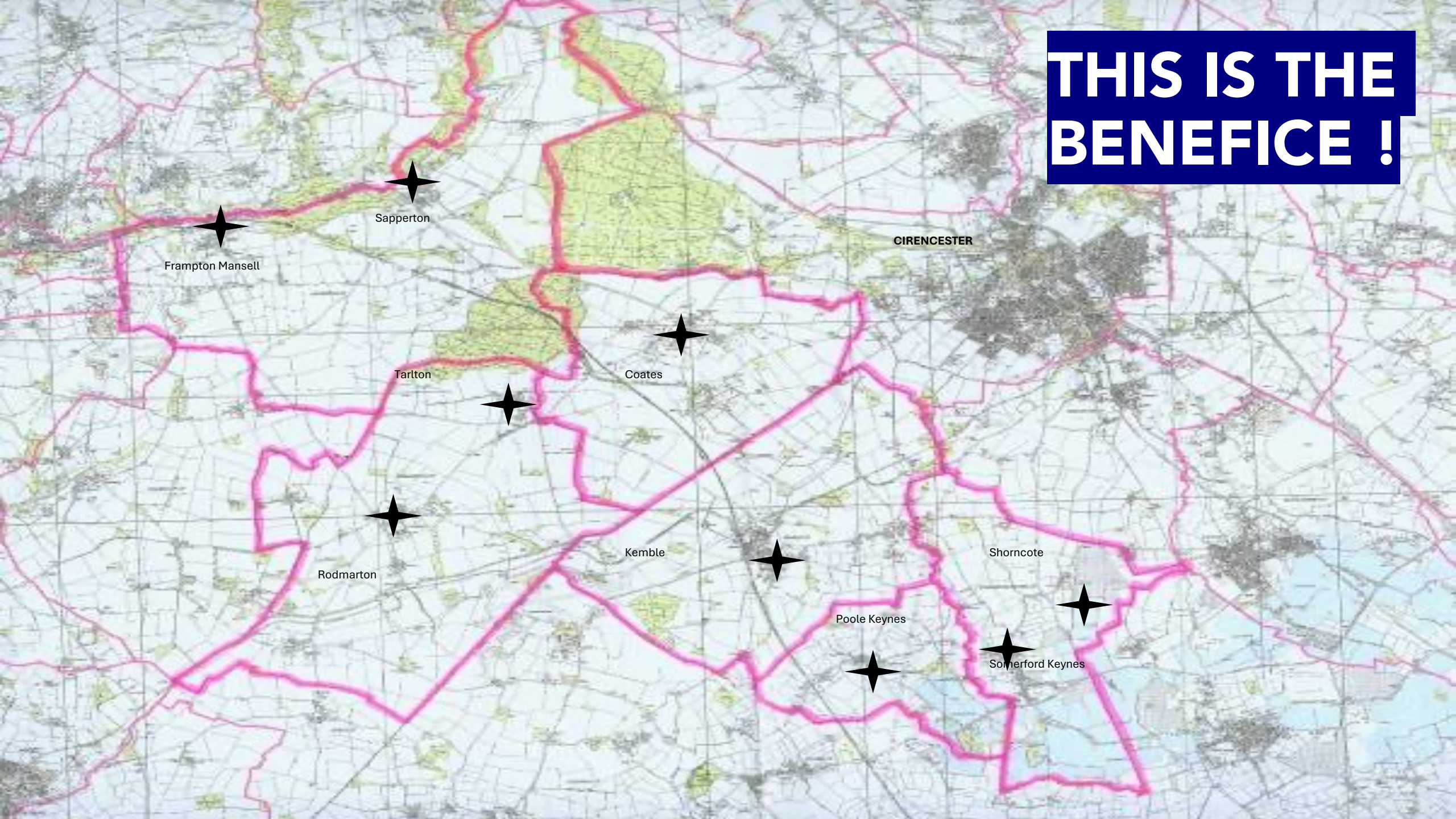
The Benefice seeks to live out the Diocesan LIFE Vision:

**"I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE,  
AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL."**

(John 10:10)

[www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-s/our-vision/](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-s/our-vision/)

**THIS IS THE  
BENEFICE !**



Frampton Mansell

Sapperton

CIRENCESTER

Tarlton

Coates

Rodmarton

Kemble

Shorncote

Poole Keynes

Somerford Keynes



# PICTURES OF CHURCH CONGREGATIONS



# THIS IS THE BENEFICE !

The Benefice's ( [www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk](http://www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk) ) six parishes have nine churches two of which, Shorncote and Sapperton are in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. Shorncote is used for occasional services; Sapperton has six Sunday services, some festival services and several school services/activities through the year.

The Benefice area has about 3,000 residents. The demographic profile is mixed. In Kemble, the largest village, the largest population group is in the 29 years to 59 years (over 40%). There are a significant number of young families in Kemble. In the other parishes there is a mix of ages and stages with, in some instances, rather more older people.

The Benefice area contains three primary schools: Kemble School (103 pupils), Sapperton School (57 pupils) and Rodmarton (63 pupils). Sapperton School is a VA Church of England. The schools have close links with the benefice and have regular inputs from our ministry team and our Sportily ( [www.sportily.org.uk](http://www.sportily.org.uk) ) youth worker. Open the Book takes place each term in Kemble school.

# THE TEAM

Our Ministry Team currently consists of an associate priest, several retired clergy with permission to officiate, a reader with another about to be licensed, and a significant number of active and committed lay members who conduct services, give talks and make pastoral visits. We have recently had a curate and hope that we shall have another in due course.

Our service pattern during the vacancy has been developed and maintained by the team. We have continued to run Messy/Forest Church which now operates as Wild and Messy Church.

The lay ministry team currently comprises a range of people who lead services, speak, visit, run a play group, do OTB in Kemble school and run an informal service once a month in Kemble. Some of the lay team are in the Flourish group formed in response to a Diocesan initiative. The lay team includes George Collins the Deanery Lay Chair. The wardens at Rodmarton willingly read Morning or Evening Prayer when suitable clergy or readers are not allocated in order to maintain a regular rhythm of Sunday Worship in the parish.

# THE TEAM



Rev. Pepita  
Walker

Associate Priest retired  
with permission to  
officiate



Rev. David  
Austin

Retired with permission  
to officiate



Rev. Angie  
Austin

Retired with permission  
to officiate



Luke Campbell  
Sportily Sport  
and Faith



Liz Collins  
Reader  
Minister



Karen  
Czapiewski

Soon to be licensed  
Reader, chair of the  
Diocesan Board of  
Finance



Antonia Walls  
Part-Time  
Benefice  
Administrator

# ADMINISTRATION

Administrative support for the Priest-in-charge is provided by Antonia Walls, a part-time paid Benefice Administrator based in Kemble.

Our churches are well managed and have no significant financial or fabric issues. Day-to-day running of the churches is by PCCs formed of elected volunteers. Representatives from the PCCs (normally the Churchwardens) have regular meetings chaired by the incumbent. The "Fact Sheet" with the relevant numbers for services, occasional offices and Parish Share, see appendix.

PCC Treasurers meet each year with the incumbent (or Priest-in-charge) to discuss and agree the allocation of Parish Share and the financial support for Sportily. Shared costs e.g. the benefice office running costs, clergy expenses etc. are paid by the Benefice Treasurer who obtains reimbursement from the other parishes.

Clergy expenses are paid promptly and follow Diocesan Guidelines.

**APPOINTMENT OF  
THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE  
MIGHT THIS BE  
YOU?**

# THE BRIEF

Following consultation with our church communities, we would like to appoint a Priest-in-charge who is ...  
Called to **rural ministry** and the challenge of developing and **growing the church** in a modern rural ministry context and who will challenge us to move forward;

Is willing and able in appropriate contexts within the benefice to adopt a sacramental and liturgical approach as celebrated by the Book of Common Prayer, elsewhere an approach which is recognisably Anglican and elsewhere an evangelical/charismatic approach with prayer and good Bible teaching at the heart of all we do;

Committed to good communication and pastoral care and to leading and developing a team of pastoral visitors;

Enthusiastic about **working collaboratively** with both lay and clergy to develop and use the gifts of both;

Keen to engage creatively with the **wider community** as well as churchgoers to better share the good news of the gospel message;

Comfortable with and able to encourage and support a **range of worship styles** from the strongly sacramental and recognisably Anglican services to more informal styles and being willing to consider and promote new forms of worship;

Willing to **actively engage** with the life of the Deanery and the Deanery Strategic Plan.

If you have **vision and passion** for these things and feel a call to this type of ministry, please read on.

# OUR BENEFICE VISION AND CHALLENGES

# THE COLLECTIVE VISION

To make our churches relevant and accessible to all generations from the children in our communities to our older residents;

To continue to support and seek to prosper traditional ritual forms of worship and to develop and grow new models of worship such as our informal Source Service and Wild & Messy Church that reach out to the wider community;

To be the evident body of Christ in our communities in a way that connects us with people as it touches their lives in a relevant way;

To continue to strengthen relationships between our churches and find ways of sharing ideas and resources (people) without diminishing the primacy of the parish and the importance of our individual churches to their villages;

To continue to train and develop across the Benefice a team of our lay members who serve in different capacities such as mission, pastoral visiting and leading worship;

# THE COLLECTIVE VISION

To promote Pastoral Ministry, develop and grow the work of Sportily and Wild & Messy Church to improve ministry to young people across our Benefice.

To make our churches and ministry more visible, relevant and recognised in our communities.

To develop our prayer ministry through the availability of our churches as places for quiet prayer and reflection through the day, our 24/7 Prayer room, prayer walks, after service prayer ministry and our monthly 24-hour prayer times.

**Can you help us achieve our vision?**

# OUT OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

In and around the Benefice including School work

**Sportily** is a major Gloucester Diocese initiative aimed at encouraging people of all ages, but especially young people, to engage with sport, physical activity and faith. Lots more details at [www.sportily.org.uk](http://www.sportily.org.uk)

The Benefice supports Luke Campbell who splits his time between the benefice schools and churches and work in the Cirencester schools and churches. In the last year he has run activities such as ActiveRE making contact with a large number of children and young people previously unreached by church activities. This is exciting work, connecting up sport and faith, is having a direct and positive impact on young people and their families. Sportily continues and develops that work across the Diocese.

Exploring faith through participating in sport is allowing young people to discover Jesus Christ in a way that is relevant and accessible for them. A willingness to pioneer such fresh expressions of church that are more suited to people unused to traditional forms of church is part of our vision for the future of our Benefice.

After a recent Active RE session Luke commented:

"In this lesson with the year 6's, we explored the concept of sacrifice and how it applies specifically to an athlete. We also looked at how sacrifice applies to their own lives and others. We spoke about how this all links to Jesus and sacrifice for the whole world. The children really enjoyed taking part in the activities and engaged well with the topic of sacrifice. My highlight was seeing them celebrate their class teacher in the middle of the lesson, as we chatted about who in their lives has sacrificed for them. Thanking Jesus for a great first lesson with these young people and looking forward to going deeper into thinking about how Jesus sacrificed his life for people."

The Priest is a vital link between the Benefice and Sportily and has to date been a key member of the Local Management Group and an advocate for Sports Ministry across the Diocese.

**Thameshead Ladies Connection** meets from time to time through the year with an invited speaker to hear and discuss about a range of topics.

**Wild and Messy Church** is currently run at least four times a year in venues across the Benefice by volunteers from several churches in the Benefice, with the support of Sportily. We are encouraged as they seek to build up a group of families who engage with God through fun, worship and food. We hope to develop these relationships further as we invite the families to the Source, family services in Kemble and consider sustainable ways of offering more discipleship to the parents.

### **Home Groups**

There are a number of home groups running in the Benefice and a monthly home communion in a home in the Benefice.

**Time Out** started as a ladies group meeting every week in a home to share and pray together. Now there are also separate weekly groups for men and women with school aged children.

# OUR SCHOOLS

Sapperton is a CofE school with strong links to the Church. The incumbent or Priest-in-charge is an ex officio member of the Governing Body. Worship is held every day. Once a week it is led by a member of the Worship Team which includes an associate priest, who also serves as the school's chaplain, the Sportily Youth Minister and a member of the laity. Holy Communion is celebrated at the beginning of each term and special services are held in St Kenelm's church in Sapperton.

Rodmarton School is a local authority primary school. It holds special services in the church at the end of each term and has its own stall at the Christmas Bazaar. In the past there has been a close relationship with the village church which the parish wishes to restore, e.g. a children's choir to celebrate major feast days. There is religious education trust available to make grants.

Kemble school uses Kemble church for special services or celebrations and the links between the church and the school are good. Volunteers from the congregation take Open the Book into the school during term time.

# WHERE YOU WOULD LIVE...



The Vicarage is in Kemble. It is a recently built house on the Top Farm development. The house has 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, study, large kitchen/dining area, living room and a garage and garden.



# KEMBLE AND SURROUNDINGS

Kemble is lovely place to live. It has a good community spirit and a wide range of activities going on within the village. The vicarage is a short walk from the church, the thriving shop and post office, the primary school (rated Good in the most recent Ofsted report), the pub, the doctor's surgery and dispensary, the village hall (village cinema monthly and Coffee Stop every week) and the mainline railway station (London Paddington 1 hour 10 minutes services every hour). Kemble is short drive from Cirencester, a delightful Cotswold market town, where there are a range of other facilities available.

If you've got a family, education choices at primary and secondary levels are exceptional. There are excellent secondary schools in Cirencester and a Sixth Form College in Cirencester and bus/train connections to schools in Stroud and Cheltenham.

The primary schools at Kemble, Rodmarton and Sapperton are excellent schools.

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING  
THE TIME, IF YOU NEED TO  
KNOW MORE?**

Further information or an informal chat about the Benefice or any aspect of the above please contact :  
Jill Kingston 07798 830287

# APPENDIX

## Parish Profiles

Coates

Rodmarton

Poole Keynes

Somerford Keynes with Shorncote

Sapperton with Frampton Mansell

Kemble

## Benefice statistics

# Coates Parish Profile

## Who are we as a church?

The St. Matthews's church is a beautiful, historic sanctuary with Saxon origins that is valued within its active working village of Coates, as demonstrated by the recent well-attended community consultation, which can be used to provide a pathway ahead.

With deep historic roots in faith, over 10% of the population are church goers, with church festivals being well attended and a small group of committed regular attendees throughout the year. Currently there is 34 residents on the electoral role. Based at the source of the River Thames, we seek to be a source of spiritual growth and strength within the local community and beyond. There is a well of willingness to participate given appropriate encouragement, guidance and a working framework. There is scope for building a broader more active pastoral team.

## Our Christian Life

We are a caring, friendly, supportive community which seeks to live out our Christian values. We have participated in a wide range of worship styles from regular BCP services, to more creative festival services including All Saints and All Souls 'Light Service' and Pet Services.

We have maintained regular contributions to our parish share and have a healthy fabric fund contributed to by regular donations via the 'Friends of St. Matthews'. We have participated in various fundraising activities from the most popular Tombola at the Summer Fair to Barn Dancing alongside the animals in the farm. The quinquennial report has been recently completed with no major works required.

## The vicar we need

A caring, compassionate, energetic, encouraging person to enthusiastically engage with the village's diverse socioeconomic residents and nurture 'new shoots' amongst the younger generation. An inclusive, inspiring leader to shine a focused light on the next steps, to lead with love; the love of God and life in all its fullness. The willingness to embrace village life, engage empathetically with residents and commit to providing a focal point for pastoral care within the community. Ultimately, a creative, imaginative, relatable and sociable character with the courage and conviction to connect with the entire community; making the church a central part of the community for all across the benefice.



# Coates Parish Profile

A Benefice Service at St. Matthew's Church June 2024



# Coates Parish Profile

## A Benefice Service at St. Matthew's Church June 2024

Showing the West window which is to be subject of significant work by a well known stained glass window artist as a result of a specific bequest for that purpose.



# Rodmarton Parish Profile

## Who we are and where we live

The parish of Rodmarton is distinctly rural, comprising the villages of Rodmarton (70 houses) and Tarlton (97 houses, including Jackaments Bottom (8 houses) and Hullasey Barns (5 houses), and the outlying communities of Culkerton (18 houses) and Hazleton (11 houses), totalling 196 households, with a total population of 322.

A number of houses belong to local landed families, and consequently many of the properties are tenanted. Rodmarton Manor was the last great manor house to be built in the "Arts and Crafts" movement. There is some social housing at Tarlton and Rodmarton, and a number of barn conversions and new build houses in both villages which are owner occupied.

## Our churches

The parish cherishes two beautiful medieval churches : the parish Church of St Peter in the centre of Rodmarton, and St Osmund's, Tarlton, originally a chapel of ease. The buildings offer a sacred space at the heart of their communities, and the villages support the church buildings and services. In the past there have been informal ecumenical links with local Roman Catholics who have shared our worship and, with the bishop's permission, held occasional masses in St Osmund's chapel. The buildings are kept in good repair. St Peter's quinquennial work 2019 was finished in 2021, with tree-work completed in 2022, a new quinquennial inspection is due in 2024; St Osmund's quinquennial work was completed in 2023.

## Our village communities, our school and village hall:

A strong community spirit is characterized by a close relationship between church and non-churchgoers and by an openness to all. In our rural villages, people identify with the place, rather than with networking, activities, etc., and there is a strong sense of community. The parish is the focus for ministry and pastoral care, through maintaining its rhythm and style of services.

Rodmarton has a thriving local authority primary school with a close relationship with the church, and which draws a good number of children from the market town of Tetbury and around; and an attractive village hall with excellent amenities, including a sports field adjacent. There is an active cricket team. Popular fundraising events are held at the village hall, and a non-fundraising Harvest Lunch. There are food bank collection baskets in both churches.



# Rodmarton Parish Profile

## Worship

A corporate member of the Prayer Book Society, Rodmarton has a deep love of Common Prayer liturgy and language, and of traditional ritual. Going forward we wish to celebrate this with a priest who is grounded in the Anglican tradition, happily consecrating the Eucharist east-facing and elevating the holy mysteries in full view of the people. The King James Bible is the preferred version of the Scriptures, and we look forward to teaching of the Word that is sacramental in emphasis. The Peace is not exchanged communally, and received or set prayers and litanies are preferred to extemporary prayer at the intercessions, as is commensurate with the BCP. The choice of music is consistent with this traditional style.

## Services

There are services every Sunday in the parish, the morning or evening offices are willingly led by the wardens when a member of the clergy is not available to celebrate the Eucharist. We seek to uphold at all times the beauty and dignity of traditional liturgies. At the heart of this is the celebration of the great festivals of the Christian year, marking the pattern of our Lord's life. Up until recently they have been led by a children's choir, central to our outreach. Special services with wide appeal, several involving Tarlton church, include Rogation procession, Blessing of the Animals, Christingle, and the Feast of the Kings.

The approach to youth is envisaged within this framework of an open door to families and children. An interest in music and engagement with young people would be welcome.

## Attendance at services

Usual Sunday attendance is about 12, more on feast days; 144 at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2023; 73 at Easter Eve and Easter Day 2024. The electoral roll stands at 64 (April 2024).

## Occasional offices

We welcome the return of an open baptism policy. We want people to know that the church is open to all, and there for them from the cradle to the grave. As we go forward, we would hope to see more baptisms, marriages and funeral services in the church (none during 2023), and that you would engage with these families. So far, there are four baptisms for 2024, and three more under discussion.



# Rodmarton Parish Profile

## Finances

We are proud that there is a stewardship scheme in place which is kept under review. Fundraising events 2023 included a Ceilidh, Quiz, Summer Lunch & Dog Show, Cricket Match and Christmas Bazaar. External charities for which the parish fundraises or donates include Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and the Royal British Legion; and also the National Churches Trust, Children's Society, Church Army, Prayer Book Society and St Luke's Health Care for Clergy.

At the year end of 2023, the balance in the account was £9,806. The parish share of £8,586 was paid in full. There is also a Perpetual Fabric Fund, and a Rodmarton Religious Education Fund for children and young people, both with stable balances. We have contributed towards the costs of village youngsters volunteering in schools in Ghana this year, and would welcome growth and utilization of the fund.

## What we are looking for in a new incumbent

We are looking for a priest who is passionate about pastoral care as integral to mission; to be a regular visitor to the parish, known to the residents, a priest who will uphold and encourage a traditional and sacramental approach, especially with children and young people, and will at all times love, respect and honour a style of worship rooted in the language of the Book of Common Prayer.



# St Michael & All Angels, Poole Keynes

## Poole Keynes

Poole Keynes is a small, rural village lying 5½ miles to the southwest of Cirencester. There are approximately 200 people living in the village.

There is an active Village Hall committee which run regular events for the village..

There is no school, shop or pub in the village. There is a bus provided by the county to take the children to Kemble Primary School, or to Kingshill or Deer Park in Cirencester for their secondary education.

There are several working farms within the parish boundaries. The housing is predominantly residential.



# St Michael & All Angels, Poole Keynes

## St Michael and All Angels church

St Michael and All Angels church was originally built in 1467 and rebuilt in 1778 and in the 19th Century. The church building is in reasonably good order and is well maintained. The church has some interesting examples of stained glass. The churchyard is well kept.

We have 34 members on the Electoral Roll.

We are a small but committed and faithful congregation who are willing to embrace change. Our services range from fairly traditional Holy Communion through to café church style services, and everything in between.

At the moment, we hold services twice a month and a good proportion of our congregation join in with the worship in other churches in the Benefice on the other Sundays.

Despite its size, St Michael and All Angels is a warm, welcoming, open church, with a congregation who genuinely want to get to know God better, whatever stage they might be on their Christian journey.

We believe we have a Spirit filled church which is conveyed immediately to visitors, who often comment on the warm welcome they receive. There is much laughter in our church and a feeling of mutual support and respect amongst its members.

We see our purpose to strengthen the church and to lead by example, through prayer. We aim to build up the faith of those who are already followers of Christ and to awaken others to faith.

We are a very mission focussed community; which includes sharing God's love through a number of activities such as: pancake parties, Rogation walks, harvest teas, teddy bear's picnics, monthly coffee mornings etc. and the parishioners are very supportive of these.

We host the Benefice Easter sunrise service each year, concluding with breakfast in the church.

The Posada travels around the parish and beyond during Advent.

We have a full Parochial Church Council and we pay our Parish share in full each year as well as supporting the work of Sportily. Our fundraising not only benefits our church, but we also support other charities such as the Church Urban fund and the Addington Society.

3 of our PCC members are part of the Benefice Flourish group, which aims to support mission in the Benefice; we also have the Deanery Lay chair and a Lay Reader in our congregation.



# St Michael & All Angels, Poole Keynes

What we would like in a leader is:

A person of God and of prayer with a passion for bringing people into faith, who believes that although small is beautiful, bigger could be even better!

Someone who will help us to encourage families and individuals to come to faith.

Someone who is supportive of lay ministry and will support and grow the 'Home Team'.

Someone with a sense of humour

# Parish of Somerford Keynes with Shorncote

Village population: C. 400

Village Website: [www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk](http://www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk)

## Key aspects of church life

Recognisably Anglican, HC on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday; MP on 3<sup>rd</sup> of each month

Church and village life very much intertwined - over 90% of villagers responded to the Neighbourhood Development Plan that the church is an important part of our community.

It is important in a rural community, where ours is the only church, that we care about members of the wider community of the parish as well as our own congregation. This achieves more than we could through formal mission activity.

Groups of villagers regularly get together both socially and in order to maintain village amenities. These gatherings are important channels for checking on the health and welfare of our neighbours, whether they need assistance, a hospital visit or just some company at home.

While much is done to support the incumbent's pastoral care in the village, we recognise the importance of our priest being actively involved and visible in our village, visiting those who are very sick and the bereaved, being integral to life in Somerford Keynes: not on the periphery.

Volunteers manage rotas to ensure church is cleaned, bells are rung, flowers are refreshed, the churchyard is maintained, service preparation is completed.

The church has 4 bells, rung for weddings and funerals as well as Sunday services. The bells also form part of village celebrations to mark events such as the coronation.

Youth ministry is supported financially and with a parishioner as part of the "team".

Kemble is our main benefice hub for regular children-centric services and activities.

Harvest festival and lunch, Christmas Crib, Nativity and Carol services, Mothering Sunday and Easter services, together with Messy Church, all attract younger families to our services.

New families present a great opportunity to welcome new people to worship with us.

No Village School, so children attend schools in Kemble, Cirencester, Stroud and elsewhere.

Although most Childrens' activities do not involve members of the PCC directly, members are all DBS checked and have completed Safeguarding courses. Safeguarding is treated as an important priority and is well coordinated through a benefice Safeguarding Officer.

Weddings and Baptisms are embraced as an opportunity to present a positive experience of church fellowship to a wider section of the community – Somerford Keynes is a beautiful church seating over 100 and has the only car park in our benefice.

# Parish of Somerford Keynes with Shorncote

## An Active PCC

PCC meets 4 times annually to oversee stewardship of fabric and finances, fund-raising activity, and support our church wardens in matters of Mission and service patterns.

No current Benefice Council but the concept is supported and largely achieved de facto through Benefice-wide church wardens' meetings with the Rector.

The PCC regards the Parish Share as a priority and manages events to achieve that.

Fund-raising activities are judged by the PCC as much for their community involvement as for the funds raised – albeit the funds are both welcome and necessary.

Individual villagers, not always regular church-goers, lead some fund-raising activities such as quiz nights and safari suppers, sometimes splitting proceeds between the church and other charities. Carol singing through the village raises money for Winston's Wish each year.

## A summer Open Garden

Two homes with beautifully maintained gardens open them to the public every other year in turn. This is one of the principal fund-raising activities alongside a Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall. These are wonderful opportunities for the whole community to come together and for new people to become involved with the village and with the church at its heart.



# Parish of Somerford Keynes with Shorncote

## All Saints, Shorncote

This tiny Grade II listed church, less than a mile from Somerford Keynes, is now maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust [www.visitchurches.org.uk](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk) with the PCC Somerford Keynes responsible for the churchyard. A service takes place once each year, on the first Sunday after Christmas.

## Friends of Somerford Keynes Church

The Friends of Somerford Keynes Church is a fund-raising body, independent of the PCC but with our two church wardens as its current trustees. Many improvements to the church structure have resulted from grants made by the Friends, and the involvement of the whole community is greatly valued.

## What We Need

Someone who is willing to give time to each of the parishes in the benefice, who enjoys meeting and getting to know people, encouraging their faith and bringing young life back to the church.



# The Parish of Sapperton with Frampton Mansell (SFM)

We live in a wonderful place. Our parish with a population of 424 (2011 census) has two villages of a similar size situated between Cirencester and Stroud in the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We have beautiful walks. Sapperton is also visited for its Arts and Crafts associations and the long, now disused, canal tunnel built in the 18th Century. Both our villages have Village Halls and pubs. Sapperton has a Church of England primary school.

In the parish, there are households of all ages, with those still working commuting to Cirencester, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Bristol or further. The Parish Church of St Luke's in Frampton Mansell dates from 1843. Although generally in a good state of repair, remedial building work is planned to begin in the autumn 2024. Burials can take place in the churchyard where there is also a small labyrinth. St. Kenelm's, Sapperton with medieval origins, was transferred to the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) in 2016. The churchyard was closed in 2018, but we have a cemetery at the edge of the village for burials.

Both our villages appear in the Domesday Book but are very different in character in part because of the housing stock. Frampton Mansell with mainly owner-occupied houses and two one-time council developments, has a strong if largely secular sense of community (Choir, book club, film night, coffee mornings, craft group, Whats App group). In Sapperton where only a third of the houses are owner-occupied, there is a significant turn-over of rented properties.

A one-time council development is now partly owned by a housing association and there is a small housing association estate built on PCC land. There might be few village activities, but there is plenty of goodwill. Although the villages want the churches, very few are actively engaged.

Every household receives a monthly magazine paid for by the parishes and parish councils of Rodmarton, Coates and Sapperton with Frampton Mansell. It provides an opportunity for comment, to advertise village events and church services and find local resources. It is also sent out electronically and posted on community websites.



# The Parish of Sapperton with Frampton Mansell (SFM)

## Church Services

We hold regular services twice a month (usually a Common Worship Holy Communion and Morning Prayer) with one of the services held in St Kenelm's every second month. Other services are added for church festivals (Palm Sunday Walk, meditations on Good Friday, Remembrance, Carols, crib service) or for special events such as Harvest and the Coronation. We try to be a welcoming church and with water on tap, there is coffee and tea after services.

## The Worshipping Community

Although the parish is unchanged over centuries, historically and today only a few church members attend services in both churches. Congregations, except special services which can be well attended by all age groups, are usually 10 – 15 people. Regular church goers are generally older. The parish hosts the Benefice service in rotation. Our services when there are no clergy are taken by the church wardens or trained lay members of the congregation with the support of others in the Benefice. Special services are a collaborative effort between the clergy and a core group of the congregation. Our small rather elderly PCC meets regularly. The electoral role has 32 members.

## Finance

The parish participates in the Parish Giving Scheme which covers the running of the church. Receipts are lower since Covid, with small congregations and the move from cash.

Our church has a Perpetual Fabric Fund which, with a grant from the Gloucester Historic Churches Trust, will cover the latest maintenance expenditure. We also have a limited Property Trust set up as a charity investment in an account controlled by the PCC. Small grants most recently have been for the school, a toddler group and Sportily. With the church, the CCT, the school, two Village Halls and different clubs to support, there is competition for funds and volunteers. Our fund-raising activities have declined and this is something we need to work on.

## The new Vicar?

Our parish would like the new Vicar to bring the benefice a clear sense of leadership, direction and a commitment to meeting Christian values in everyday life; to help us in the parish develop Christian faith both within the community and importantly, the school. We need to inspire the next generation to follow Christ.



# The Parish of Sapperton with Frampton Mansell (SFM)

Sapperton Church of England Primary School  
[www.sappertonschool.org](http://www.sappertonschool.org)

It is always a delight to visit our school which has around 57 children. Loving care is very obvious. The children are taught the importance of caring for each other – not just those in their class but across the whole age range. At Sapperton School, everyone is special. There is an easy relationship with the village community as well as the church.

A member of the Worship team leads worship each week. We follow Roots and Fruits. Worship is held every morning, sometimes with the whole school, sometimes by class and these may be led by a member of staff or the children. Prayers are said at the end of each school day. A service of Holy Communion is held at the beginning of each term.

Services are held several times during the year in St Kenelm's at which parents and friends are welcome. The children read, sing and write the prayers. Our school chaplain is at most of these services to help in their preparation and frequently give a talk. The Sportily leader visits regularly. He is part of the Worship team, runs an after-school club and holds occasional special events. A representative of the CCT visits the school each term and leads workshops in the church.

**Our school vision is: To Nurture Faith; To Inspire Success.**

**Our values are: Love; Honour; Trust.**

**Our Spirituality Statement: We are all God's children and this is me!**

Our new Vicar will be a member of the School's Governing Body. They will find a keen group of Governors, welcoming to all, and valuing their school while being critical friends to the Head Teacher and Staff.



# All Saints' Church, Kemble

## 'Worshipping God and Sharing His Love'

The Village. Kemble is the largest village in the Benefice. It is a lively and thriving community. Together with the adjoining village of Ewen it has a population of about 1200. In Kemble there is a shop, primary school (rated "Good" by Ofsted), pub, village hall, doctors' surgery and railway station. The Kemble and Ewen Neighbourhood Plan shows the age profile to be dominated by the 30 to 60 year old group; there are a significant number of young families.

There are 100 people on the Electoral Roll of which some 30 to 70 attend on a regular basis. At festival times the congregation numbers about 150 from all age groups. The village today enjoys the presence of a number of people/families who originate from Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Baptist backgrounds, some of whom are regular members of Kemble Church and others who come to the church from time to time while also supporting their own denomination. We are holding our first Ecumenical Service in February 2024.



# All Saints' Church, Kemble

## Worship at the Church

Worship at the church offers a variety of services, some of them lay led. The services are in a "user friendly" form; no books or service sheets and everything on a screen making it easy to follow.

There is communion service once a month, and a monthly joint Benefice service which moves around the different parishes. There are services specifically for children and a regular informal service run by a lay team. There is a Sunday school group once a month. Services are usually followed by refreshments and a time for fellowship. We encourage wide participation in services through leading, speaking, prayers and lesson reading. We have a regular prayer meetings and home groups each week.

All services in the church are streamed on YouTube for anyone to view but particularly for those who may be incapacitated or away from home.

## Fabric and Finance

All Saints' is in sound condition with a well-kept church and church yard. There are some kitchen facilities in the church along with a fellowship area which support a variety of activities including a space for families during services and a WC. We are planning to improve the worship area within the church and are having plans prepared that will achieve this whilst improving our carbon footprint and sustainability. The finances are

in good order with Parish share being paid in full along with a significant proportion of the funding of the Benefice Strategic Youth Minister. The PCC policy is to donate 10% of annual turnover to charity, a figure that has been exceeded in recent years.

## The Potential Opportunity for the Gospel in Kemble and Ewen

The village is a wonderful and vibrant place to live. It has a strong community spirit and the Church is active in much that goes on. The church is outward facing looking to take the love of Christ out into the community and share the good news of the Gospel.



# All Saints' Church, Kemble

## The Church in the Community

The church is active in taking the love of Christ into the community. Much of our focus is on young people and young families. Open the Book is taken, weekly, into Kemble School and we have a weekly group known as Little Fishes run by ladies from the Church for mothers with babies and pre-school children in the village hall.

We hold an annual Fete which is well supported by the whole community and we host a Benefice Family Fun Day at Kemble School. The Parish strongly supports other Benefice events such as trips away to Lee Abbey which have not only been a time to reflect but have also inspired discussion from which new ventures have emerged.

From time to time through the year services are held in The Tavern, our local pub; Christmas and Harvest Festival and other events such as the coronation. These are well supported by local people.

Kemble Church enjoys a very large team of people numbering over one hundred who volunteer for a multiplicity of jobs including an active Bell Ringing Team. The Church has a well-supported choir which enhances our worship at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and other major events.

Little Fishes - happens once a week in Kemble Village Hall. It attracts a wide range of people from a wide area and brings together parents of pre-school age children in an informal setting. It provides a link between the church and the communities it serves.

The Source - service happens on the 2nd Sunday in the month in Kemble. It is an informal service, lay led and open to everyone from across the benefice. Services are held in the church, in a garden, at the pub and on the sports field. It attracts about 50-60 people.

The Benefice supports the major outreach work of Sportily in the Diocese so that we have a half time youth/sport coach who works in the schools in the benefice and with village youth clubs.

We are taking forward a Benefice initiative of appointing a part-time administrator to reduce the amount of time taken on administration for us and our future minister. We hope she/he will be in place by Easter.

We are just launching a nearby prayer room so that 24 hour prayer events can be facilitated.



# BENEFICE STATISTICS

<b>Name of Benefice</b>	Kemble, Poole Keynes, Somerford Keynes with Shorncote, Coates, Rodmarton and Sapperton with Frampton Mansell also known as 'The Thameshead Benefice'		
<b>Role Vacant</b>	<b>Rector</b>		
<b>Archdeaconry</b>	Cheltenham	<b>Deanery</b>	Cirencester
<b>Number of lay readers, PTOs, others</b>	One Lay Reader with one due to be licensed in September, 3 PTOs. Also 7 Lay Worship Leaders.		
<b>Number of Parishes</b>	6	<b>Number of Churches</b>	7 + 2 CCT
<b>Total Population as of 2021</b>	2825	<b>Average Weekly Attendance 2022</b>	74
<b>Any expected population growth</b>	Kemble is a "secondary settlement" in the adopted local plan. Some new housing is inevitable	<b>Average Weekly Attendance 5-year Trend</b>	2018 = 138 2019 = 134 2020 = 18 2021 = 83
<b>Occasional offices 2019</b>	<b>Occasional offices 2020</b>	<b>Occasional offices 2021</b>	<b>Occasional offices 2022</b>
Baptisms = 13	Baptisms = 0	Baptisms = 10	Baptisms = 11
Marriages = 9	Marriages = 4	Marriages = 5	Marriages = 12
Funerals = 12	Funerals = 9	Funerals = 9	Funerals = 11
<b>Number of Church Schools</b>	1	<b>Number of Community Schools</b>	2
<b>Parish Share – total for Benefice</b>			
Diocesan Request for 2018	£84,304	Benefice commitment for 2018	£77,858
		Parish Share contributed for 2018	£77,858 + £5327
			outstanding from previous year total £83,185