



St Lawrence  
Bourton



St James  
Clapton



The Church in  
Upper Rissington



St Peter  
Little Rissington



St John the Baptist  
Great Rissington



St Laurence  
Wyck Rissington

# BENEFICE PROFILE

Bourton on the Water  
with Clapton and The Rissingtons



**Exciting NEW 0.5 FTE Post**

# ASSOCIATE PRIEST



# 2025

"We want to receive God's love in our lives,  
and be Christ's love in the world."

Our churches are loved, lively places of worship, prayer and outreach – serving the communities around them. We know there is still so much potential to share the love of God more widely as we grow in our own discipleship.

Our hope is that this new post will bring a creative energy to our journey so that we might flourish in our lives together.

*Revd Hannah  
Priest-in-Charge*

# Welcome!

We are Bourton on the Water with Clapton and The Rissingtons, a benefice in the North Cotswolds made up of 6 villages and 5 well-maintained & cared for church buildings.

This is an exciting moment as we appoint a new 0.5 stipendiary Associate Priest to join the benefice in sharing the love of God and deepening faith within our communities.

Is God calling you to join us on this journey of growth?



# The journey so far...



## Latest Population figures

Bourton = 4178  
Upper Rissington *still growing* = 2500+  
Great R = 355  
Little R = 245  
Clapton = 117  
Wyck R = 106



Our benefice has undergone huge growth over the last 20 years. There are large areas of new housing in Upper Rissington in particular and also in Bourton. Across this busy benefice we engage extensively with many community groups and organisations, as well as serving the local community through church based toddler groups, coffee mornings, lunches, bereavement group & eco youth group.



The previous House for Duty priest and curate worked together in vacancy across the whole benefice. This team working approach allowed greater collaboration between individual churches and the local community forging connections which have begun to bear fruit.



Today, together with the Priest in Charge, the benefice is keen to continue to build upon these connections. We are excited to be exploring where God is leading us next in our journey together.



# Where next...

## Typical main Sunday

### Congregation

Bourton = 55

Upper = 14

Great = 15

Little = 18

Clapton = 14

Wyck = 9



This post offers an exciting new approach to working across a multi-parish benefice made up of large areas of new housing, small villages and a market-town sized village.



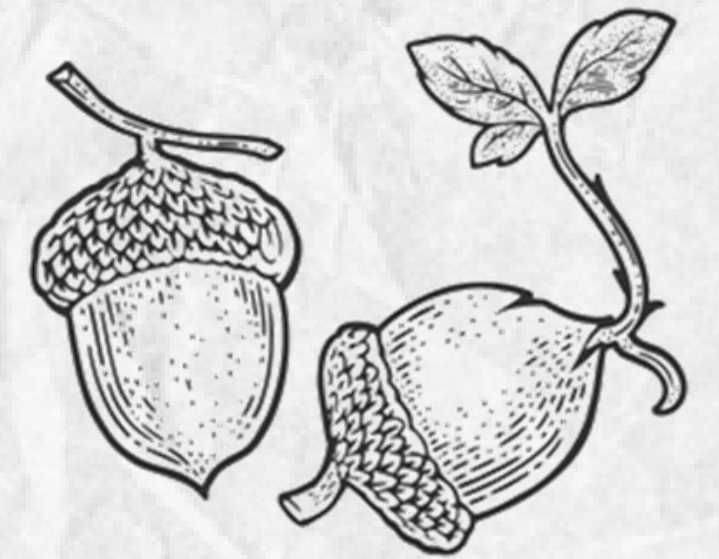
The age profile across the benefice is varied. Areas of new housing in Upper Rissington and Bourton bring a particular opportunity to share the love of God with those unfamiliar with church, whether they be young families or older people. You will have the freedom to explore creatively what this might look like. We expect your role may change over time, as the respective strengths of the Associate Priest and Priest in Charge emerge and dovetail.



Relationships matter to us. Central to our life together as a benefice is openness, warmth and welcome so that people from a variety of church traditions might find their home among us. This includes how we relate to our communities, relate to visitors from around the world **and** relate to one another as distinct church communities ready to take the next steps together as members of one benefice.



# Will you join us?



We're praying for you...



## What do you do that makes your heart sing?

Maybe sport, art, music, outdoor worship, maybe something else.

In this post we invite you to consider using this to engage people where they are, connecting together the life of the church with that of the wider community, so that more people across the benefice might deepen in faith as they encounter the love of God.



Plough Sunday



**As an ordained priest**, you would apply this approach to multi parish ordained ministry whilst embedded in the life of six welcoming, lively, church communities with established patterns of worship of varied traditions and regular community activities. This fresh approach would mean your ministerial development and experience would be enhanced. As part of a team with the Priest in Charge and growing lay leadership, celebrating the Eucharist will be integral to this role, as will occasional offices and pastoral care.



**Are you keen to enjoy your ministry** in a broad church whilst being creative and imaginative? Would you enjoy the flexibility of shaping a role which enables both you and us to flourish?

**We value the wide range of services found in our benefice which enable our welcome to embrace people from a wide range of church traditions:**

- Book of Common Prayer:  
*Matins, Evensong & Holy Communion*
- Common Worship
- Informal Worship
- Breakfast Church
- Café Church



# The Bigger Picture



**We want the good news  
of Jesus to be shared  
more widely so that  
church communities  
may flourish**

*Rev Craig Bishop  
Interim Area Dean*



This new post is enthusiastically supported by the North Cotswold Deanery. You will join a supportive, vibrant clergy chapter.



The Deanery Strategic Pathway informs our life together and is encouraging closer collaboration between clergy and between benefices, greater engagement with areas of new housing and is supportive of a new Chaplaincy role in our local secondary school. We have committed to our jobs being do-able, missional, collaborative and we hope, fun!



Two of our churches (Bourton and Great Rissington) are on the Eco-Church journey with Bronze and Silver Awards respectively and we are learning to work together to learn and share our experiences.



Lively Open the Book teams share bible stories with both our primary schools. We are committed to engaging children and families in the worshipping life of our churches and have begun to think about Forest Sunday School.



# Our Benefice: Bourton with Clapton and The Rissingtons

Click the images  
for more about each  
of our church  
communities



## - Bourton on the Water -

St Lawrence is a welcoming church in a busy tourist hotspot, aiming to worship, care and minister to locals and visitors alike.



## -Upper Rissington -

A village made up of an area of redevelopment on a former Royal Air Force base and an extensive area of new housing. The church here is asking, "how do we reach the people of Upper Rissington with the good news of Christ?".



## - Great Rissington -

A friendly, strong community who, though not all part of our regular congregation, support all of St John's many endeavours and help with regular upkeep tasks.



## - *with* Clapton on the Hill -

St James' Church offers a peaceful sanctuary holding traditional services. Our challenges include bringing more families to faith and building on our good relationships across the village.



## -Little Rissington -

St Peter's is always open and ideally placed to welcome many walkers and visitors to the Commonwealth War Graves as well as the local community.



## -Wyck Rissington-

St Laurence's is valued because it represents what is best in the tiny village of Wyck Rissington - community spirit and peaceful reflection.



# Living here



## DAILY LIFE

There are shops, pubs, restaurants, a pharmacy, doctors' surgery, dentist & Leisure Centre in Bourton. Sports clubs & other activity groups take place across the benefice.

There are two local primary schools (with Good OFSTED reports) and one secondary school in our benefice (rated Outstanding). Its catchment area is wide, drawing students from within and some miles beyond the benefice.



## TRANSPORT

Moreton-in-Marsh & Kingham stations with mainline rail links to London are both just 8 miles away. Cheltenham and Cirencester (15 miles away) are easy to get to & there are regular local bus services.

Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxford (30 miles) are also within commuting distance.



## FIRST PERSON...

*E has a young daughter and says "you are good at making my whole family feel welcome and valued - even those members who don't join us for Sunday services."*

*S says "My wife and I came to live in Bourton ... in 2020. We were very grateful to our near neighbours for their friendly approach and offers of help, especially when my wife of nearly 60 years passed away. My life changed overnight but I found solace when I went to St Lawrence Church.. I am grateful to them all for their friendship and actions. Thank you all"*

# OTHER USEFUL THINGS TO KNOW

- **Home**

- As part of the Diocesan pledge to become carbon neutral, it is planned that a new property be purchased for the Associate Priest in Upper Rissington.

- **Governance**

- We have 4 PCCs, a Clapton Parishioners' Meeting, & regular meetings of Church Wardens and Treasurers. There are representatives elected to Deanery Synod across our PCCs and we have Parish Safeguarding Officers.

- **Finance**

- We are on track to meet in full the requested Parish Share for the Benefice in 2025.

**We seek to be** a friendly, honest & welcoming benefice, and have as open a policy as permissible within the rules on baptisms, blessings, weddings, & the receipt of Holy Communion for both adults and children.



## **Creepy Crawlies!**

Our benefice youth group have been building bug-hotels in Bourton churchyard as well as bat watching & drinking hot chocolate at our local Wildlife Trust site, Greystones Farm!

# SOME FAVOURITE THINGS



# WILL YOU JOIN US?

