

Chalke Valley Benefice

Team Vicar Post

Is God calling you to this role?

We are seeking a Team Vicar to join us here in the beautiful Chalke Valley. You will be a member of our Benefice clergy team undertaking routine ministry throughout the Benefice but with specific responsibility for the churches in the western end. Our committed and well-motivated lay people will be eager to support you in this.

This vacancy has arisen because the previous holder of this post, Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley, has been appointed as our Team Rector.

You will:

- Appreciate and have enthusiasm for Rural Ministry.
- Be a team player with the ability to work collaboratively with both clergy and lay leaders.
- Be a community priest engaging actively with life in our villages.
- Provide pastoral support for a group of parishes within the Benefice.
- Be a visible presence and provide ministry in the local church primary schools.
- Place value on the importance of occasional offices.
- Lead worship across the Benefice.
- Be enthusiastic but sensitive when introducing new ways to show God's love with our community.

Desirable Attributes:

- PASTORAL – approachable and accessible to everyone in your care.
- BOLD - not afraid to challenge us to step out in faith and step into our giftings.
- INNOVATIVE - willing to explore fresh expressions of church, with both discipleship and mission in mind.
- BIBLICALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE - able to demystify the Bible - we want to learn from you.
- A MENTOR – able to lead us but encourage us to be leaders too.
- A TEAM PLAYER- comfortable working alongside other clergy, supporting others and accepting support where necessary.
- CHILD FRIENDLY– creative and engaging with children.



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Our Vision

Our shared vision in the Diocese of Salisbury is 'To make Jesus Christ known in every place so that all might flourish and grow, seeking his Kingdom, here and now.'

As a family of churches in the Chalke Valley Benefice, we seek to grow in Christ, rooted together with our communities. We aspire to be salt and light in our villages by serving all our neighbours and listening to their voices.

We aim to share the Gospel by our example, wholeheartedly engaging with our neighbours and deepening our own faith by offering belonging, support and comfort.

We want to use and build on the skills and interests of our congregations and clergy, to bring God's life-enhancing love to those who live around us.

*"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.
Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."*



Our Benefice

Overview

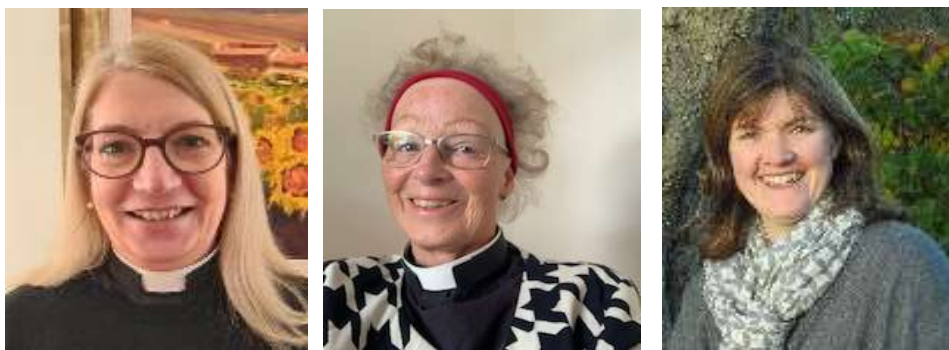
Our Benefice comprises 14 rural churches in 9 parishes set along 17 miles of the River Ebble before it joins the River Avon (see appendix 3 &4). As our clergy lead services in all our churches and will, on occasions, be involved in activities throughout the Benefice, the use of a car is essential. We are part of the Chalke Deanery within the Diocese of Salisbury. Our Benefice team is:

Team Rector – The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley

Team Vicar – YOU?

Team Vicar (NSM) – The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor

Employed Administrator – Emily Broomhead



The clergy team meet weekly to provide a collaborative and supportive ministry for all of the Benefice. We are also supported by the ministry of retired clergy, Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Pastoral Assistants in leading Sunday worship and providing pastoral care in our communities.

Governance

Our Team Council is a legally constituted body made up of the clergy and representatives from each parish. It is the main decision-making body in the Benefice and helps to reduce the burden on individual PCCs by overseeing the spiritual activity in the valley and assisting in the legal requirements for our parishes such as safeguarding and health and safety issues. Each parish has its own PCC to oversee the work of the local churches. We are exploring ways of reducing the PCC workload to suit local situations.

Buildings and Finances

Our historic churches are valued by our communities and are supported both financially and by volunteer engagement in their upkeep. All our parishes have paid their latest Parish Share and the church buildings are generally in good repair, some having recently had major refurbishments.

Deanery and Chapter

As Team Vicar you will belong to the Chapter of the Chalke Deanery. Currently there are 8 stipendiary and 2 non-stipendiary clergy members along with a small number of retired clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers and the Deanery Lay Chair. The Chapter has a monthly meeting and Communion Service. The clergy value this regular coming together for theological discussion and mutual encouragement, given the geographical spread of the Deanery.

Our Church Life

We have been united as a Benefice for more than 20 years and have found great joy in being small congregations but also part of a much larger family. Our approach to worship is fairly traditional but having unity, without uniformity, we are able to approach our worship in a variety of different ways (*see appendix*).

Beyond our regular Sunday worship and pastoral involvement, 'church' for many families happens in our three church primary schools where an active and regular chaplaincy is provided by clergy and lay volunteers involving children, parents and staff. Open the Book currently visits regularly in one of our schools.



Fellowship

We have a number of groups that meet regularly in fellowship and discipleship.

Lent Projects

Each Lent our Benefice raises funds for a chosen charity, alternating between UK and overseas charities. With a common cause to work towards, we have raised as much as £20,000 to achieve our objectives.

Bible studies/Home groups

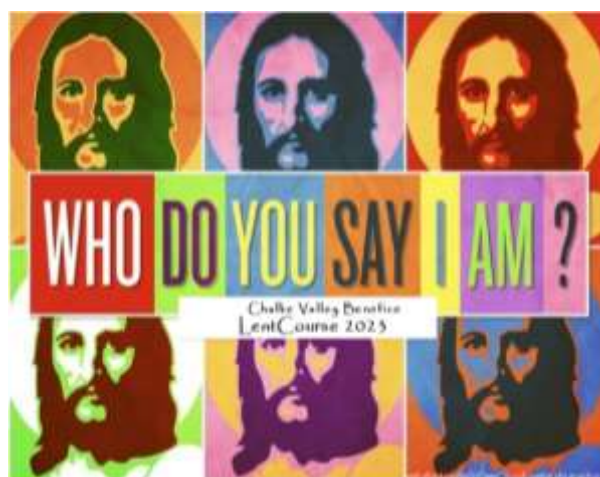
A safe place to ask questions and go deeper. There is no set programme. Group leaders choose what to study. Over Lent we share a common study course.

Lee Abbey

A biennial opportunity for those who wish to join together for a residential break away at Lee Abbey in Devon. A time for fellowship, worship and teaching, when our church family can really get to know God and each other better.

Informal Worship

Lay led fresh expressions of church are hosted occasionally in different churches within the Benefice, with the aim of offering a more relaxed style of worship and teaching.



Wellspring

A group of around 35 Christians that meets weekly during term time for worship and Biblical teaching. It is lay led, but visiting clergy are warmly welcomed. This group has been the instigator of many activities including the men's breakfasts, Lee Abbey weekends, suppers and a highly successful charity, CRESS.

Visionary groups

A group of Christians from across the Benefice attended the CPAS run Thrive course and have continued to meet to encourage the development of lay leaders and community outreach within the Valley.

Outreach

Rural ministry offers us effective and fun ways to share the love of God through the many events in our villages and churches. It is through these events that we can really be salt and light to our friends and neighbours.

Sharing the Good News

In addition to our Benefice Website, we have a lively weekly e-Bulletin Church News which reaches the whole community. A number of our villages have their own website and magazine where our church news can be carried.



The Salisbury-Sudans Partnership

Our Diocese has been linked with the Anglican Church in Sudan and South Sudan for 50 years. This link features prominently in our benefice mission and outreach.

Christian Relief and Education in South Sudan (CRESS) is our 'home grown' charity. It has supported over 80 children through education, provided assistance in setting up a medical clinic, funded many to attend agriculture and small business training and enabled the clergy to attend national conferences.

The **Chalke-Cueibet Partnership** is the charity through which our deanery plays its part in the diocesan link. Annual visits to Cueibet by our clergy and laity to run clergy training, building a primary school and providing bicycles have been ways in which we have supported local development.

Easter

We hold a number of outdoor services including: a Dawn service, an Easter egg hunt, a retelling of the Easter story in poetry and re-enactment and an Easter trail set out across a local farm.

Harvest

With a number of farms in the Benefice, our harvest celebrations are an important festival. They are a great opportunity to share our gratitude for God's generosity with our community.



Christmas

Some of our parishes hold outdoor carol services and door-to-door carol singing remains a popular tradition in our villages. More than 100 people gathered together last year and joined in our most recent Cowshed Nativity held on a local farm.

Community events

Several of our churches have been adapted for wider community use, including: concerts, plays, music practice, barn dances and even a 'pop-up pub'. Regular coffee mornings, a monthly 'Golden Lunch' and Teas provide support and friendship for the senior members of our communities.

Valley Life

The collective population of the Valley is about 4,000 people, with villages ranging in size from just 20 to around 600. Whilst employment was originally in farming and agriculture, our population is now quite diverse. Many professionals, commuters, young families and retirees now choose to make their 'forever' homes in our villages, whilst our long-standing residents and small community of travellers ensure that we retain our links with the past. Families can often trace their connections with the area for many generations, providing an historical stability that is most welcome.

Whilst outwardly affluent, beneath the surface there are those who struggle to make ends meet – a situation that has become worse with the rising cost of living. Fortunately, there is a very strong sense of shared community ensuring a good support network for those in need.

Facilities

Happily we don't have to travel far to meet our health and recreational needs. There's much to get involved with right on our doorstep.



Chalke Valley Link Scheme

This is a community run scheme to transport those unable to use public transport to essential appointments.

Medical care

There are GP surgeries in Broad Chalke, Salisbury, Wilton and Downton. Both NHS and private hospitals are within the Benefice.

Shops

There are three shops: a farm shop in Britford, a community run shop in Coombe Bissett, and a community run shop and 'hub' in Broad Chalke

Food and Drink

There are seven pubs within the Benefice, all are welcoming and serve excellent food, although we all have our favourite one.

Sports

Chalke Valley Sports Centre is home to several sports clubs, including football and tennis. Yoga and Pilates classes are held at several of the village halls and, of course, there are the village cricket clubs.

Entertainment

Village hall film nights, concerts, singing groups, book clubs etc abound throughout the Valley, as do the seasonal pantomimes.

There's a lot going on

Alongside the necessities of life, our Valley offers much for family and community living. From the nationally recognised Chalke Valley History Festival to our intervillage football match, there is plenty to enjoy and share with friends.

Ebblefest

An annual festival of music, food and fun that raises money for our churches and local charities and brings people together.

The Chalke Valley History Festival

Evolved from a local literary festival, this is now a nationally recognized annual event now held in Broad Chalke.

Open Farm Sunday

Nunton Farm Dairy welcomes over 2000 people in to watch the dairy farm in action. Including milking demonstrations, tractor rides, ice cream vans and all sorts!

Berwick St John Country Fayre

Held every 2 years, this wonderful gathering of steam engines, vintage agricultural machinery and rural crafts draws huge crowds and raises funds for our local Hospital's charity, The Stars Appeal.

Village Pantomimes

All-age community events are always a sell-out. One cast had an age range from 8 to 73.

Other events

Bonfire night in Charlton-All-Saints, regular car boot sales, New Year's Eve inter-village football match, village fetes, flower festivals, cream teas...and so much more



Home life

The Rectory



We recognise that where you live will be important to you. As Team Vicar you will live at The Rectory is situated centrally in the Benefice in the large and highly acclaimed village of Broad Chalke. Within easy walking distance are all the village amenities, including the Church, the Hub Community Shop and Post Office and the Queen's Head Pub. The four-bedroomed house is modern, comfortable, easily managed and is suitable for a family or an individual. It stands in a medium-sized, easily maintained garden with arable fields behind and

facing towards the village.

Schools

There are three primary schools in our Benefice (Longford C of E primary, Coombe Bissett C of E primary, Broad Chalke C of E primary) and a good selection of other schools nearby. In Salisbury we also have a variety of private schools, 2 grammar schools and several highly regarded secondary schools just a short bus ride away.

Transport links

There are Bus services into Salisbury and to the local secondary schools. There are good A road links and rail services to the cities of Southampton, London, Bath and Bristol. Our nearest airport is in Southampton.

The City of Salisbury

The beautiful city of Salisbury is just a few miles away. Known for its stunning cathedral, Salisbury is also home to Sarum College, where there are a number of theological courses to enroll on for personal study and continued professional development. The Royal School of Church Music is also located in Salisbury, so there are ample opportunities to be involved in Diocesan activities. The city has everything you need: a range of high street shops, boutique coffee shops, a leisure centre, restaurants, parks and a brilliant theatre. For those with a desire for a greater variety of shops, West Quay Shopping Centre and Ikea are just 40 minutes down the road in Southampton.



Further Information

We hope you've enjoyed reading about our Benefice and the exciting opportunities we have for you here. As you can see, this role gives you a unique chance to work with and be supported by an established team, whilst growing and developing your own areas of ministry. Alongside your diverse work as Team Vicar, we invite you to share with us the pleasure of living in a fun and friendly community.

Our hope is that you too may become rooted in this place.



If you would like further information, or to discuss the post in more detail, please contact:

Lynne Archer

lynne.archer@salisbury.anglican.org

07917 912185

or

The Revd Dr Ruth-Howlett-Shipley

01722 697022

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Rectory Footprint

Appendix 2 – Sample Monthly Service Rota

Appendix 3 – Our Churches and Villages

Appendix 4 – Benefice Map

Appendix 1 – Rectory Footprint



Total area: approx. 185.7 sq. metres (1999.1 sq. feet)

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 Plan for illustration only. Windows and doors are approximate. Whilst care is taken preparing this plan, please check details before making decisions reliant upon them. Measured and drawn to RICS guidelines.
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Appendix 2 - Sample Monthly Service Rota



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - September 2023

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)



3 September 13th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Katharine Robinson
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Kate Woolven
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Songs & Sausages	Britford	Ruth H-S
10 September 14th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Katharine Robinson
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Rhoderick Voremberg
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
	3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
	4.00pm	Harvest Festival & Tea	Nunton	Ruth H-S
17 September 15th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Vernon White
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Pen Milburn
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Ruth H-S
24 September 16th Sunday after Trinity	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Harvest Festival	Charlton All Saints	Anthony Hawley
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Harvest Festival	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Ruth H-S
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Harvest Festival	Homington	Jenny Taylor
1 October 17th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Harvest Festival	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Harvest Festival	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Harvest Festival	Ebbesbourne Wake	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Harvest Festival	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led

Ministry Team: Team Rector (designate) ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697022
Team Vicars ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, Vacancy
Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376

Assisting Clergy: The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 01722 420942
The Revd Kate Rosslyn Smith: 01722 780011, The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395

Lay Worship Leaders: Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785, Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447,
Naomi Martin: 07713031774, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Gill Riley: 01722 780538, Janet Roe: 01725 519242,
Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoderick Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152

Appendix 3 – Our Churches & Villages



All Saints
Charlton All Saints

Charlton All Saints (pop 290) is a small, friendly village, made up of a caring community of individuals. It is situated in the River Avon valley, surrounded by Longford Estate farm land and by water meadows. All Saints Church was consecrated in 1851. Horatio 3rd Earl Nelson was the church's founder and patron. During the year, several social events are arranged in the church, central and the only 'public space', which are enthusiastically supported and enjoyed by residents of this and neighbouring villages.

The ancient village of **Britford** (pop 560) is 1 mile south of Salisbury, with beautiful views of the Cathedral from the water meadows. It is a small community with no shop, but proud of a very successful cafe with delicious homemade food. Longford castle is at the southern end of the village, there is a fish farm and two other farms and for centuries the sheep fair was held in Britford. Longford C of E Primary school serves children from the surrounding area. There are a few families in Britford with children but most of the residents are retired.



St Peter, Britford



St Andrew, Nunton



St Mary, Odstock

ONB (pop 550), short for **Odstock, Nunton, and Bodenham**, is a charming community nestled towards the eastern end of the picturesque Chalke Valley on the eastern edge of the Chalke Deanery. The civic parish boasts two churches, two hospitals (Salisbury District and New Hall), two pubs, a village hall, a nursery school, a dental centre and a local 'milk hut' where fresh milk from the 800 dairy cattle that roam the village fields is sold, and Longford castle. The villages collaborate frequently, pooling their resources and creative abilities, particularly for the annual Christmas 'Review/Panto' which is always a sell-out. The summer Ebbfest, a combined fete and music festival, draws people from a wide area and raises funds for local charities and churches. In the summer months, car boot sales provide regular competition to church services! The Nunton field is used by the local football clubs during the winter.



St Mary, Homington



**St Michael & All Angels,
Coombe Bissett**

Coombe Bissett is a medium sized village on the cross roads where the valley East- West road meets the Salisbury-Blandford road. **Homington** is a little over one mile down the valley road, easy walking distance across Homington Down. The villages (pop 690) are both extremely friendly. Coombe Bissett enjoys the prominence of the church of St Michael and All Angels and benefits from an excellent village shop, small church primary school and a pub. Homington is a much smaller village, with its pretty church of St Mary. There are a few families in both villages.

The sense of community, within the two villages is extremely important and you will always find a friendly face and someone to pass the time of day with. Social coffee mornings take place in both churches, monthly in Homington and weekly in Coombe Bissett. There is also a well-used village hall. Care and help for the sick or elderly is important and available with the villages also having their own Link service where volunteer drivers will transport those in need to hospital or surgery. A country bus service runs along the Chalke Valley and into Salisbury, usually via the hospital.

Set in the middle of the Chalke Valley, **Bishopstone** (pop 684) is a thriving village community with a good mix of young families and retired residents. Whilst lacking an obvious 'centre' there is plenty going on in the village, with a well-used village hall that hosts a wide range of events, from Moviola nights to a lively playgroup. There is also a village pub, popular with families, and a recently improved village playground. The church sits approximately one mile from the rest of the village, in a beautiful riverside setting. The village is in catchment for both Coombe Bissett and Broad Chalke primary schools.

Stratford Tony (pop 55) is a small hamlet, alongside the river Ebble. Its delightful church in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust is used for an annual evensong in the summer and the occasional wedding!



**St Mary & St Lawrence,
Stratford Tony**



**St John the Baptist,
Bishopstone**

Broad Chalke (pop 650) sits centrally in the Benefice and has a good mix of age-groups. There is a CofE maintained primary school, a sports centre, a village hall where WI, Flower Club, Film Night are each held once a month and Teddybears (for mums, babies and toddlers) once a week, and a pub – The Queen’s Head. The jewel in our crown is The Hub – a shop (Chalke Valley Stores) and Coffee Shop, situated in the URC building. There are 7 working farm and several small businesses. The village also hosts the internationally famous Chalke Valley History Festival.



All Saints, Broad Chalke



Holy Trinity, Bowerchalke

Bowerchalke (pop 280) is a ribbon development, nearly two miles from end to end, set in the Cranbourne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with farms surrounding it. It has a stream fed from a spring that rises in the natural basin that joins the Ebble River and supports a fish farm. It is, in the main a close- knit community of all ages. The “outstanding” Broad Chalke School is a draw for those with young children. There is a monthly farmers market in the Village Hall, and other community events provided by Church and Village Hall supporters.

These 3 villages have distinct characteristics but combine for some activities.

Ebbesbourne Wake (pop 210) is the largest with most houses around the centre, but some are outlying and West End joins Ebbesbourne and Alvediston. The Horseshoe pub is very popular, while the Village Hall is a centre for all 3 villages. It hosts the 'Alvewake' fête, flower show, film club, concerts and special occasions like the Coronation Tea. Farms are mainly arable and livestock pasture, with a commercial shoot.

Ebbesbourne shares a Parish Council with Fifield.

To the east, there is evidence in field contours of the medieval village in **Fifield Bavant** (pop 22), deserted due to the plague. Now there are 12 dwellings: Manor Farm House, the former rectory and 10 farm cottages.

Some of the farm buildings are let as stables and workshops. The farm is mainly arable with grazing and a shoot. Cont.....



St Martin, Fifield Bavant



St John the Baptist, Ebbesbourne Wake



St Mary, Alvediston

cont...

Alvediston (pop 80) to the west is the most scattered village with clusters of houses. Following a recent fire at the 'Crown' Inn, the church provides a venue for concerts and special events, eg. a Coronation exhibition of local activities and interests. Sheep farming predominates, with some arable, livestock and a race horse stud.

Almost all houses are permanently inhabited; there are council houses in Ebbesbourne and farm cottages at affordable rent in all the villages.

Berwick St John (pop 250) is the westernmost village in the Chalke Valley, and the Benefice. Nestled amongst the chalk downs, the River Ebble rises here. It is a rural community, with four working farms and associated businesses including a blacksmith. There is a pub and Village Hall, both well supported. Berwick is renowned for its community spirit, from street parties for national events to its Harvest Supper and Fete. Above all, it is the home of the biennial Country Fayre, founded by village steam enthusiasts and now a huge event which last year raised over £63,000 for the Salisbury Hospital Stars Appeal.



**St John the Baptist,
Berwick St John**

Appendix 4 – Benefice Map

