



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL

TRANSFORMING CHURCH. TOGETHER.

PRIEST IN
CHARGE

LIDBROOK
BENEFICE



Thank you for your interest in the position of Priest in Charge of the Lidbrook Benefice. We hope this profile will help you with your ongoing discernment.

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TRANSFORMING CHURCH. TOGETHER began in 2021 with listening to God and to one another.

From these conversations, four guiding values were discerned. Creativity, Openness, Bravery and Generosity inspire a vision and strategy which seeks transformation across the whole Diocese by the grace of God. Each Deanery and Benefice is encouraged to work out what TC.T means in their particular context – the same principles can inspire and develop mission in very different ways.

With major financial support from the national church, the Diocese is offering support and resources in key priority areas of ministry.

These include:

- ♦ Enabling parishes to discern and implement vision
- ♦ Help for benefices with evangelism and discipleship
- ♦ Support for teams running New Christian Communities
- ♦ Volunteer training
- ♦ Supporting parishes with the care and improvement of church buildings
- ♦ Investing to become a Net Zero Diocese by 2030
- ♦ Addressing the church's history on racial justice and diversity
- ♦ Developing partnerships between the church and local communities
- ♦ Investment in under 18s work
- ♦ Investment in priority community parishes, church plants/grfts and Mission Areas
- ♦ Clergy coaching and wellbeing

This is a huge and exciting vision, which we can only attempt in the strength Jesus supplies and with the help of the Holy Spirit.

THE DIOCESAN STRATEGY

DIOCESAN SUPPORT SERVICE

The Diocesan Support Services exist to support the mission of the church. Based at the Diocesan Office to the north of Bristol and made up of 90 employees and volunteers, the DSS serve ministers, parishes and schools by expressing vision, strengthening relationships, empowering people, maximizing resources and developing structures. We offer training, consultancy and advice. We manage many structural elements of the life of the Diocese.



The Diocese of Bristol is presided over by the Bishop of Bristol, The Right Reverend Vivienne Faull. The Bishop of Bristol is supported by the Suffragan Bishop of Swindon, the Right Reverend Neil Warwick. The Venerable Christopher Bryan is the Archdeacon of Malmesbury and the Venerable Becky Waring is the Archdeacon of Bristol. The Reverend Adam Beaumont is the Associate Archdeacon.

Pastoral care of clergy is primarily the responsibility of the Bishops, and is supported by the Archdeacons, Area Deans and the Clergy Wellbeing Officer. Alongside any one to one issues as they arise, an annual clergy wellbeing survey enables themes affecting clergy and their families to be identified and addressed as appropriate.

There are additionally many ways in which clergy are supported in their roles. Every incumbent is invited to work with a coach as part of the Transforming Church. Together strategy. The Parish Development Officer is able to work alongside clergy where support is needed to develop a focus for vision or mission. For those in positions for first responsibility additional targeted support and development is offered. The Mission and Ministry team offer regular ministerial development for clergy and laity, and the Archdeacons with the support of the TC.T team, offer a Church Teams Day each year, primarily aiming to resource parish officers in their roles.

The Property team are working through a programme where every parsonage house will reach carbon net zero, which, as well as reducing carbon emissions should also reduce utility costs. They are also on hand to support clergy with any issues with their homes.

There could be occasions where unexpected financial pressure arises, and the Archdeacons are able to signpost clergy to appropriate means of support, as well as accessing a discretionary fund where necessary to alleviate financial concern. These situations are responded to in confidence and clergy are strongly encouraged to contact the relevant Archdeacon if such circumstances arise.

BEING CLERGY IN THE DIOCESE OF BRISTOL

The Lidbrook Benefice is seeking a Priest in Charge to join a diocese which deeply values parish ministry, not least in its rural centre. The Diocese is growing, through the flourishing of parishes and those who minister in them. This is supported by the investment of the national church which has allowed us to be creative and brave in the way we innovate and renew ourselves.

Lidbrook comprises three vibrant communities with enormous potential to be harnessed by a collaborative priest. The people of each parish are already using the church buildings to bless their communities. The next Priest in Charge will have a good foundation on which to build. They will need to have vision and skill to lead adeptly the ongoing transformation of the church in Lidbrook.

The benefice is part of Chippenham Deanery. Local clergy support one another in the emerging mission area and, most pertinently to this role, in Rudloe which straddles the parish boundaries of Box and Corsham.

Here in the Diocese of Bristol we value deeply our clergy as one of our key assets. We are committed to your flourishing, not least through investing in coaching, wellbeing support, and pastoral care,

We are delighted that you are considering this post. As you discern whether this is where God is calling you next, be assured that we are praying for the process.



+Neil Swindon

THE RT REVD NEIL WARWICK
ACTING BISHOP OF BRISTOL AND
SUFFRAGAN BISHOP OF SWINDON



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL
TRANSFORMING CHURCH. TOGETHER.

FROM THE ACTING BISHOP OF BRISTOL

A warm invitation to the Lidbrook Benefice...

Nestled in an area of outstanding natural beauty, the Lidbrook Benefice offers a unique opportunity for ministry and family life. Imagine living just a short drive from the historic city of Bath, with excellent transport links to Bristol, Swindon, and London. The M4 motorway and nearby train stations make this a wonderfully accessible location, blending the tranquility of rural living with the convenience of urban connections.

As you consider this role, I hope you've been drawn to the vibrant spirit and genuine warmth that shines through the Lidbrook profile. Here, the Diocese of Bristol's "Transforming Church. Together" vision is a living reality, where the commitment to "ONE in Christ" fosters a strong sense of collaboration and shared ministry.

You'll discover a rich tapestry of worship, blending cherished traditions with contemporary expressions, ensuring everyone feels welcome and valued. The valued emphasis on lay leadership showcases the talents and dedication of the entire church community, creating a truly collaborative lay and ordained ministry.

The benefice places a high value on nurturing the next generation, with strong links to local Church of England primary schools and thriving children's ministries. "Heart for Rudloe" exemplifies their innovative spirit, reaching families in meaningful ways.

We seek a Priest in Charge who will not only lead but also journey alongside this community. Someone who can embrace their rich traditions while inspiring them to explore new possibilities. A pastor with a heart for all ages, who will build bridges and nurture deep relationships.

The commitment to ecumenical partnerships, social outreach, and care for creation reflects a church deeply rooted in its community and passionate about making a difference.

As you prayerfully consider Lidbrook, imagine yourself becoming part of this special place. Picture the warm welcome, the shared purpose, and the supportive community.

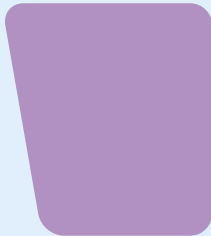
As a small Chapter we are here to support each other every step of the way, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming the person God has called to join us.

With heartfelt prayers during your discernment,

REVEREND MARC TERRY
AREA DEAN
CHIPPENHAM DEANERY

AREA DEAN'S MESSAGE

The Lidbrook Benefice was legally constituted in 2022, bringing formal recognition to relationships which go back much further. Our cooperation during the pandemic brought the three parishes closer together and this has continued in subsequent years.



A real sense of benefice identity has been fostered and grown through joint worship and ministry, which builds on our individual gifts.

The PCCs are clear that they see the benefits that come from working more closely together and out of this, and through prayer and reflection, we hear Christ's call in a united vision for us as a benefice.

CHRIST'S CALL TO US

Our vision is to be ONE in Christ, sharing a broad range of Anglican tradition in the diversity of our worship, ages, backgrounds, and communities.

We want to be confident followers of Jesus: daily seeking and following his teachings and being inspired by his Holy Spirit, so that we may live boldly for our Lord.

We want to be a generous, transforming and thriving church, through which God's light shines as we: proclaim the good news; build each other up in faith; reach out to all generations and to the lost and hungry; provide loving service within our communities; challenge and transform injustice; and care for creation.

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR AS A BENEFICE

In compiling this profile, we have reflected together and share this with you as an honest appraisal of how far we have come. We hope this will inspire you to see where you might help us to continue this journey in living out Christ's call to us. In acknowledging that we have had two vacancies over a relatively short period of time, as our previous Priest in Charge had a change of circumstances, a longing has awoken for someone to lead us over a longer term in our spiritual development.

INTRODUCTION

We are blessed with faithful, supportive, and welcoming congregations and PCCs. Through these people there are strong links with each of the communities, which enable meaningful outreach in serving others and transforming communities. We are also grateful for the support we have from lay and ordained ministers and other members of our church who are able and willing to provide a range of services and children's ministry. It is also true to say that, naturally, in small communities, our pool of volunteers for every aspect of church work is somewhat limited. We long to grow so that we are more sustainable and enjoy a better balance between all aspects of life together.

In rural communities it is important to know others and be known, that there is a place for everyone, and there is a value placed on holding together a diversity of views which develops belonging. It is very evident that each of our communities has a strong and caring heart, and each appreciates the church's contribution to community life. It is true to say that challenges in the community are viewed with a sense of shared ownership and a willingness from a variety of people to be involved. Particular places where strong links have been built include relationships with the two Church of England Primary Schools, through the privilege and opportunity for after-school church activities, family services, holiday clubs, and services for festivals. We also enjoy ecumenical events and services, which we



value and nurture and are nourished by. Our historic and beautiful church buildings, with a good mix of facilities, provide space to be with God and opportunities to serve the local community through weddings, baptisms and funerals, as well as concerts, creation care, and other community events too. We recognise

that there is a draw to the wider resources of nearby towns and cities, and that this may affect engagement with our churches. Heart for Rudloe, a fresh expression of church across benefice boundaries, along with a joint Alpha course in 2024, are ways in which we have engaged more widely, and we are beginning to think creatively about how we can be more attractive and find new ways of reaching those we are yet to meet.

We are grateful that St Christopher's and St John the Baptist are both in a sound financial position with buildings in a good state of repair, but we acknowledge that St Thomas à Becket is facing challenges in both these areas which are being worked on together. Our distinctive church and parish identities are the pillars of our benefice. We believe in the local church, in being church where we live, and in being there with and for our neighbours. We know too that we can flourish more fully in being local, by sharing our resources, our skills, our strengths and our gifts across the benefice. We hope this will inspire you to read on and find out more.

We are praying for a Priest in Charge who loves God and loves people, someone who catches the vision that we feel the Lord has given to us. Someone who feels called to share Jesus with others in this special place with passion and joy.

Our next leader will live among us and will have both a heart for and an understanding of these rural communities. They will have a desire to serve our young families, children of all ages, our faithful elderly church members and everyone in between! We are seeking someone who will be an active and friendly presence in the communities, who takes an interest in children's and youth work, who will take up their ex officio positions as Foundation Governor at our two Church of England Schools, who engages in the pastoral care of the people, and who guides them through life events, such as weddings, baptisms and funerals. In all of this they will ensure that we are in harmony with the world around us and care as much for God's creation as we do.

We pray too for an encourager, a preacher who can inspire, a prayerful person of integrity who has the vision to develop and balance a broad, inclusive, living, expanding and joyful church while remaining respectful of the traditions and customs of the Church of England and its liturgy and those who follow them.



Our new priest will be a leader, innovative, approachable, patient, self-aware, a good listener and flexible. Our new Priest in Charge will require strong planning, organisation and communication skills and be able to manage the administrative aspects of the role. We know that this role will require commitment, passion, knowledge, experience, stamina, a healthy work ethic, collaboration with others, and lots of prayer, and we offer you a ministry team, PCCs, and many other volunteers who want to work and pray with you.

If this is beginning to sound like you, we can't wait to meet you! We are excited about facing the future together, building on all that we have established so far, and considering new possibilities, as we trust in God's leading of us at this time in this place.

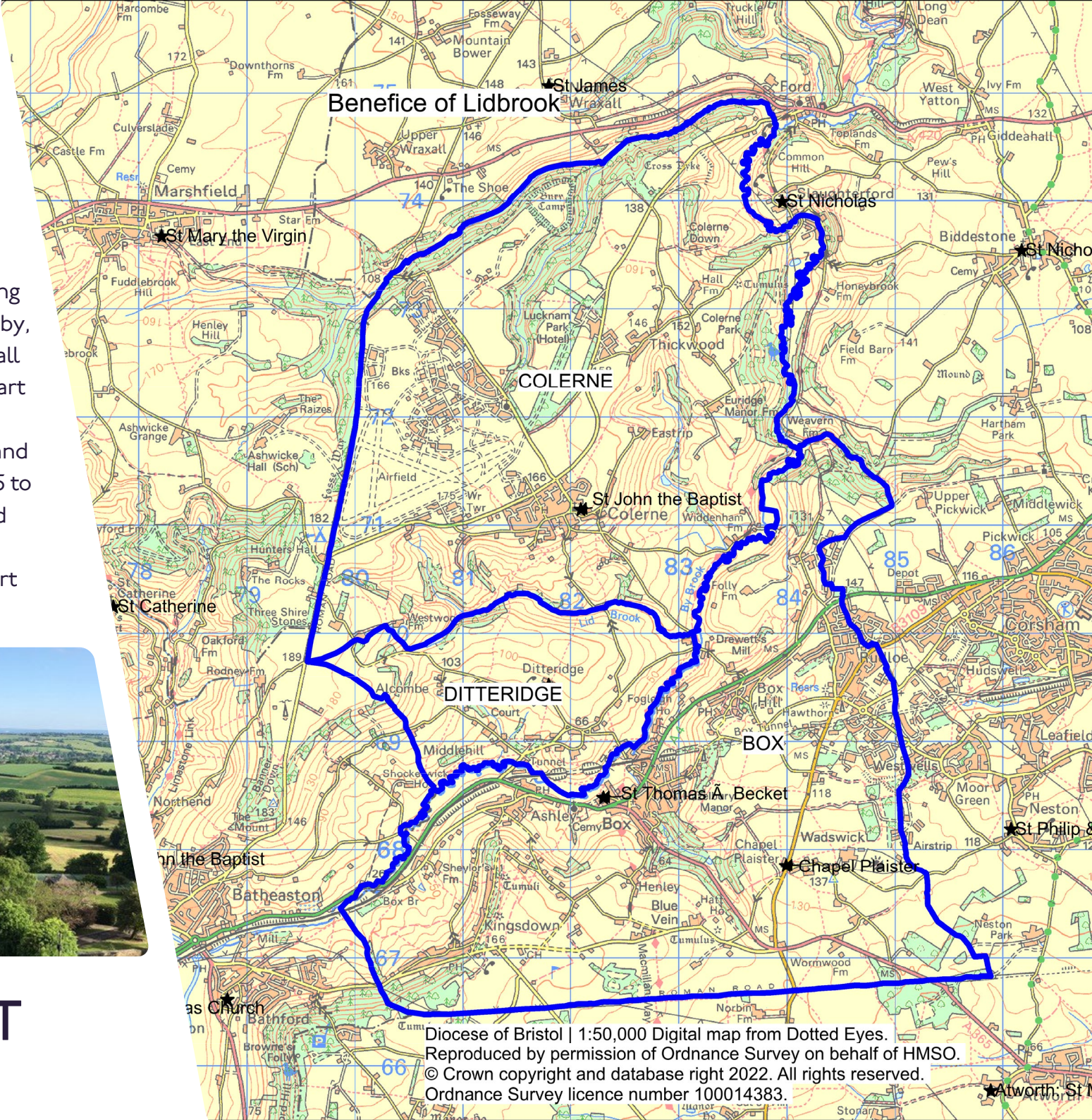
OUR NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE

WHERE WE ARE

The benefice is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty, just 7 miles from the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath, with all its facilities for culture and leisure; and having Chippenham, Corsham and Bristol close by, it is uniquely placed to enjoy the best of all worlds. Colerne and Box are 4.6 miles apart and Ditteridge sits between the two, and the Benefice is served by excellent road and rail links: (M4, 15 minutes, with links to M5 to Southwest and north to the Midlands and M6) (By train, Chippenham to London 1 hour) and there is an international airport at Bristol (20 miles away).



THE CONTEXT



THE PARISH OF BOX (ST THOMAS À BECKET AND CHAPEL PLAISTER)

Box is a beautiful village nestled in a pretty valley and the home to Brunel's famous Box Tunnel. It is a friendly and vibrant community; those who live here say how lovely it is to be able to step out of your house and bump into a neighbour or friend. Just a few miles from Bath and with good transport links, Box attracts a broad range of people – professionals, young families, and retired folk, alongside farmers and families who have been here for generations. Box, despite its size, is remarkably well served with amenities: a post office, village shop, school, library, community centre, pharmacy, small supermarket, petrol station, a restaurant, and two pubs. There are businesses based here, among them personal trainers / fitness studios and the world-renowned recording studios: Real World Studios. The village also boasts residents such as authors and historians and its socio-economic mix ensures a balanced community where all are welcome. Box offers something for everyone – currently over thirty clubs for adults and children, ranging from the popular gardening club which has a waiting list to a newly formed women's cricket club. There are beavers, cubs and scout groups and an excellent nursery for the younger children which is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

The outskirts of Box parish include parts of Rudloe and Hawthorn. 'Heart for Rudloe' is a Fresh Expression which serves people on these estates. With the agreement of the Rector of Corsham, the Priest in Charge of Lidbrook takes pastoral responsibility for Rudloe across the benefice boundary, including those parts which lie within Corsham parish.

In addition to St Thomas à Becket church, Box also has a Methodist Church and at least one house church with whom we are friends across the different backgrounds. Box hosts a Holiday Club in the large community centre. This is also used for other community events such as the ever-popular annual (amateur) pantomime. Each year there is also a popular community festival, the 'Box Revels', this was started in the Middle Ages and is still held every summer – the church community take part offering teas and a prayer tent.



OUR PARISHES THE PARISH OF BOX



The church sits in the centre of the village and church members are visible and known. A close relationship (which provides both an opportunity and invaluable support) is in serving Box Church of England Primary School in all the ways that have already been described. School services in church are a particular highlight and standing room only! The school offers a nurturing environment and seeks to encourage positive Christian principles, and teachers and parents value the pastoral support of the Priest in Charge and the Associate Minister who works in the Reception class.

Our life as a church community features children and youth activities where we see potential to grow. There is a genuine heart in the church for our younger members and we would like to see more. We make every effort to ensure that they know they are welcome. We want to be a welcoming church, and services are sometimes led by a great group of lay leaders who offer different perspectives and different styles of worship.

THE PARISH OF COLERNE (ST JOHN THE BAPTIST)

There is evidence of human settlement in Colerne the 'Village on the Hill' since the Iron Age and it is mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086. At the southern tip of the Cotswold Hills, it has a history built on agriculture, stone and water mills. The current population numbers around 3000 souls. Some trace family back through generations and others settled after a life in the military or came to look at a house and fell in love with the place. The Parish includes: a military base, one time airfield, RAF Colerne until 1976 and now Azimghur Barracks, home to elements of 21 Signal Regiment; Thickwood; Luckham Park Hotel and Spa; and Euridge Manor. The village is built along a limestone ridge 545 feet above sea level, overlooking the picturesque Box Valley. At one end, and visible from miles around, is the Parish church of St John the Baptist. A walk from the church gate, through the Market Place and down the High Street reveals two well-stocked shops, one of which includes a Post Office, two popular pubs, two clubs, a florist, a hairdresser, a family law firm and two medical practices. Turning right leads to the Colerne Church of England Primary School, Ofsted rated Good in all areas and home to some 234 pupils. The Western end of the village is bounded by a large sports field and much-loved allotments. The village is surrounded by spectacular countryside and is a veritable walkers' paradise with a choice of over 40 walks from its centre.

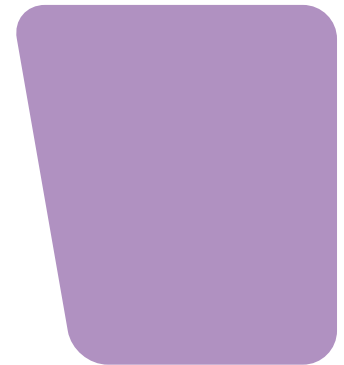
Colerne has escaped over-development and thereby conserved a genuine sense of community. There's something special about the people of Colerne; they form a self-sufficient, rounded community that is criss-crossed with deep, mutually supportive connections. A quick glance at the back page of the Parish Magazine reveals 36 different clubs, groups and organisations, all locally led, managed and supported, so the chances are, you will be able to pursue your interests right here in the village. Many find it easy to work from home here, or commute to larger centres and so Colerne is home for a real cross section of professions and trades and even has a high concentration of artists.



The military community is dynamic and enriching and supported by a branch of the Royal British Legion. Both are well represented at the annual Act of Remembrance, which takes place at the War Memorial in the Market Square and is preceded by a parade and followed by a Remembrance Service in the church.

Our retired community also thrives here, enjoying the beauty of the place, pursuing different interests and having the opportunity to volunteer and enjoy a sense of purpose. There's the musical theatre group, regular live bands, the quilting group, local history group, Wild Colerne Eco group, the WI, and the Gardening Club, to name just some. There is a popular café and a well-run Luncheon Club for the over-60s. Or you can just walk the dog with friends.

Colerne is a place where all ages can thrive, be their best selves, dream dreams and enjoy good company at one of the many clubs or pubs.



THE PARISH OF DITTERIDGE (ST CHRISTOPHER)

The parish is bounded by the Lidbrook, the Bybrook, and to the West by the diocesan boundary, covering just over two miles West to East and one mile South to North, where it touches the Fosse Way at a point near the ancient Shire Stones. The whole area is within the civil parish of Box and comprises largely open farmland and scattered dwellings. The Parish Church of St Christopher stands in the centre in the small hamlet of Ditteridge, which is largely a Conservation Area.

Of the three ecclesiastical parishes of the Benefice, Ditteridge is the smallest. Within the area there are no housing estates or new housing developments. There is very little affordable housing, and planning permission for a new build is very rarely granted, making it difficult for new couples to establish a home. The number of electors on the civic roll is 125 and there are about 10 children of all ages. Employment within the parish is in the main connected with the agricultural industry or in the service sector, others commuting for work to Bath or local towns; a high proportion are retired, semi-retired, or work from home.



OUR PARISHES THE PARISH OF DITTERIDGE

MINISTRY TEAM

ST THOMAS À BECKET

REVD CLAIR SOUTHGATE

is the self-supporting Associate Minister for St Thomas à Becket, and also a full-time teaching assistant at Box Primary School.



ST CHRISTOPHER

REVD CANON JOHN AYERS

has been associated with the Parishes since the 70's first as an LLM and then as a self-supporting Priest alongside his work as Headmaster in a church school. He currently takes responsibility for St Christopher's and helps with occasional offices across the benefice.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

MARGARET EDMONDS

is a longstanding LLM.



KATE JOHNSON is our Benefice Administrator and works 9 hours per week.

CHURCHWARDENS

BOX

PHILLIPA MULLINS



COLERNE

MICHAEL BRZEZICKI

ANNETTE HITCH



DITTERIDGE

SIMON MORLEY

MIKE MICHELL



OUR PEOPLE

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, COLERNE

PATTERN OF SERVICES

Our pattern is two Services on Sunday – morning and evening – and one mid-week, which is followed by Open House (tea/coffee and cake). One Sunday morning service a month is a lay-led Family Service. All evening Services are lay led and varied. Sundays are launched by our award-winning all-age bellringers and supported by readers and intercessors. We love traditional and modern hymns. We have a small but committed Sunday choir and an occasional choir that gathers for Christmas and Easter and some weddings and funerals. The state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment opens a space for more contemporary styles of music and worship and these are now embedded in our Family Service.



CHARITY

“The Friends of Colerne Church” is an independent charity but is assisted by the church family and organises the May Fair and the Village Bonfire Night.



We lead the fundraising for Christian Aid. We support the local joint-church foodbank and provide a “Little Larder” for locals in short-term food need. We support mission partners in Burundi and give to different local and overseas charities over the year. We support the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust through the “Ride and Stride” annually, and an Anglican Convent in St Paul’s Bristol with our Harvest Festival gifts.

CARING FOR CREATION

We are a registered Eco-Church that strives to encourage care for creation in its many, diverse aspects as well as within the churchyard. We are creating patches of wildflowers to encourage our fast-disappearing insect life. We are grateful to the Cotswold wardens, who scythe our wildflower areas in the autumn, and to the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands from whom we receive a supply of local seed.

The Shine children have built a bug hotel where insects can over-winter and we work in partnership with the “Wild Colerne” group, providing activities for our children. Care for creation is a theme that is strongly promoted through our family harvest services.

There are bird boxes in our churchyard, and we have a population of swifts, which arrive every summer, heralded by church bells, which nest in our buildings.

We are aiming to make our church energy net zero by 2030 and to this end we have installed heated pews and are researching infrared heaters.

This year, with church member engagement, we have achieved an A Rocha Bronze Eco Church award.

ECUMENICAL LINKS

Colerne is home to an active Christian community, with strong connections between those at St John the Baptist and a house church as well as with those who worship in a number of other churches in the surrounding area. There are several Christian groupings that come together for women's home groups, a men's pub group, men's and women's breakfasts and an annual Alpha course as well as a community choir that meets regularly and sings at special occasions, including weddings and funerals. All have a strong call to share the love of Jesus in both traditional and creative ways within our community.



SOCIAL EVENTS

We take birthday cakes to Church family over 80 and have organised pot-luck suppers for volunteers. Whilst the occasional social event for Church Family is good, we all heartily support different clubs, groups and organisations in the village and are often the church point of contact or presence within them.

ST THOMAS À BECKET, BOX

PATTERN OF SERVICES

Our service pattern is one service on Sunday morning with three Sunday communion services per month. One service a month is lay led. During all services, craft tables are set up for the children who are welcomed and encouraged to enjoy church – indeed they are a great joy and treasured members of the congregation. Services are supported by readers and intercessors and are always followed by coffee and chat.



We have a blossoming lay team which bring different ways to worship – songs are often introduced with words and visual effects projected onto the screen, and the lay leader gives the talk. Gifts and strengths from others are encouraged and included in the service and there is opportunity for prayer after the service.

We have one weekly homegroup within the church community and an additional ecumenical homegroup. A prayer group currently meet each Monday morning at 8am in the church. Every Wednesday morning we hold a service, with communion every other week.

Music is provided by the keyboard. We have one main pianist and two more supporting, all three being members of the congregation. The existing organ is unplayable, and the cost of repair is prohibitive for the time being. For Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Christingle family & lay led services we are often accompanied by instruments such as drums, guitars and flutes, played by a small band of young musicians. Our services contain a wide range of music, ranging from traditional hymns to more modern hymns and worship songs. A choir is not in attendance every Sunday but does sing for some of the church festivals and other special occasions.

Communion services tend to be more formal than other services, but there is a generally relaxed atmosphere at all services.

SERVICES AT CHAPEL PLAISTER

A service is currently held on the third Sunday of the month at the other church building in the Parish. Revd. Clair leads Sung Evensong as does a lay leader whilst a further member of the Chapel Plaister congregation takes Compline on a rota basis and we benefit from the services of one volunteer organist.



OUR CHURCH LIFE ST THOMAS À BECKET, BOX



ECUMENICAL LINKS

In addition to extensive and deep community links mentioned above, the church connects with the local care home, Brunel House and was involved in a Benefice wide Alpha course. We joined together with our Methodist friends in the village for their anniversary service and lead, with St Christopher's, the Act of Remembrance at the joint Box and Ditteridge War Memorial. This is well supported by the churches of the two parishes, by the civic authorities and by the uniformed organisations. Our patronal service ends with a potluck lunch in January and we join monthly benefice wide services which started just after Covid during the first interregnum. We like to be involved in the week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the World Day of Prayer where we join with our Methodist church friends.



St Thomas à Becket congregation also support the Community of the Sisters of the Church in Bristol who care for the community and provide support. (<https://bristol.sistersofthechurch.org>).

SOCIAL EVENTS

Many of our social events are also missional to some extent. They include running teas and cakes at the big community event – the Revels each year, running Open Gardens which is often accompanied by a flower festival in the church. We hold carols in the pub at Christmas and offer a Nativity trail in the village which is hugely popular. At harvest time we hold a harvest lunch after a service and in the summer months enjoy BBQs in the church grounds for church members and friends. Burns Night is also a popular event and at Halloween, we offer a drop in event as described in our children's work section.

ST CHRISTOPHER, DITTERIDGE

St Christopher's has long followed and valued a central tradition. With copies of Common Worship available for all, the congregation comfortably uses the rich liturgical provision of the book to the full, finding place for both formality and informality as occasion demands. There is a small, robed choir, augmented for festivals and special services. There is a team of sidesmen, a rota of lay members to read the lessons and lead the intercessions, and children are involved in family services. A lay team, who have followed an in-house course of training, regularly lead non-eucharistic worship once or twice a month using homilies published by the Redemptorist Press. Much of the church's activity revolves around the liturgical year.

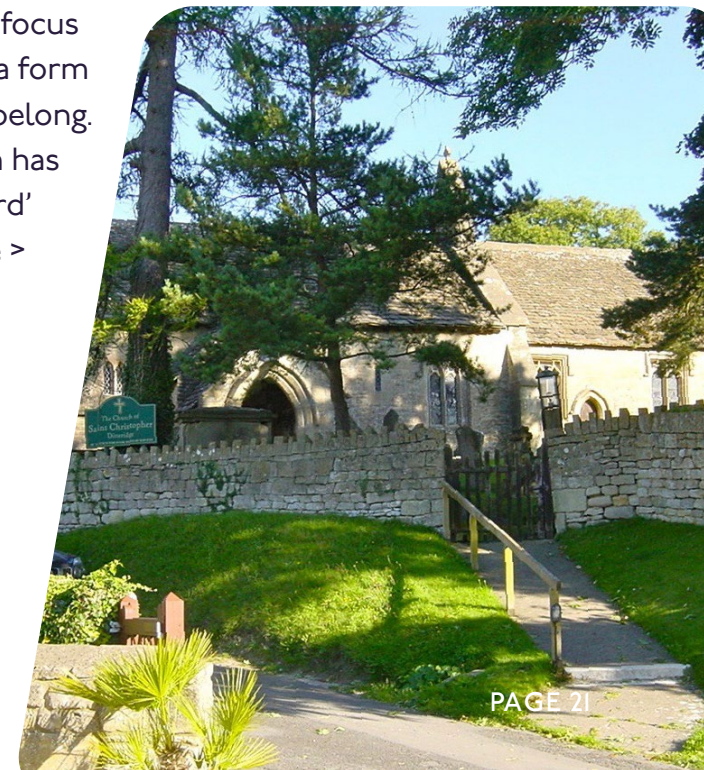
In normal times Advent and Christmas include a community drama, carol service, a crib service, Mass and Family Service. Other than Ash Wednesday and Good Friday there are no regular midweek services. Provision for mid-week services is made at the other churches in the benefice. The Patronal Festival in July and the Harvest Festival on the first Sunday of October spill out into a community ploughman's picnic and a very popular harvest supper. We now have one service each Sunday, alternating morning and evening worship as follows. Family Service (HC) – Evensong – Holy Communion – Evensong. Fifth Sunday, Morning Prayer on Sundays.

We are blessed to have many regular and loyal parishioners, one of whom has been worshipping here for 70 years during which time she has made 50 harvest loaves!

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

The twin object of St Christopher's is to be a place of worship and prayer, and a community of Christian witness and service. As a unit of the visible church, St. Christopher's seeks to be a congregation of faithful people in which prayer is made, the word of God is heard and the sacraments are ministered. It seeks to be a broad fellowship which seeks to encourage and support one another in obedience to Christ's command to love our neighbours as ourselves, sharing the good news of the kingdom of God. It seeks to be a servant and focus for the whole community, a form of church to which all can belong. The strategy for evangelism has always been the 'springboard' model of contact > nurture > commitment > growth > contact.

OUR CHURCH LIFE ST CHRISTOPHER, DITTERIDGE



In more formal terms of mission at home and overseas, St Christopher's has a planned commitment as a percentage of fundraising to support The Church Mission Society and The Leprosy Mission, and also supports Christian Aid via carol singing at Christmas. The annual contribution to the common purse of the diocese is also in part regarded as mission support to areas where support is most needed.

Also in the parish is Bybrook House, formerly an establishment run by the Church of England Children's Society and now a private residential nursing home. There have been close ties with the church.



CHARITY

The Friends of St Christopher's are a group of dedicated worshippers who organise the annual fundraising events. For example, the annual St Christopher's Home Bake Stall at Box Revels as well as the other social events throughout the year.

ECUMENICAL LINKS

- ♦ Patronal Festivals for St Christopher
- ♦ Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- ♦ The World Day of Prayer
- ♦ The Act of Remembrance at the joint Box and Ditteridge War Memorial in Box is well supported by the churches of the two parishes, by the civic authorities and by the uniformed organisations.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Opportunities for contact come through personal friendship, neighbourliness, outgoing community events, for example the very successful film evenings, carol singing around the parish, and an annual Ploughman's Picnic for the whole community where all members of the benefice are welcomed. There is also a very popular Harvest Supper. Many of those who attend at Ditteridge for worship are also active in a range of organisations in Box and the wider benefice. One of the farms in the Parish, while being run as a working and thriving farm, also houses 'Jamie's Farm', a charity which offers groups of often troubled young people from urban settings the experience of living on a farm in the countryside for a while. Jamie's Farm has a good relationship with the church.



Date	COLERNE St John the Baptist	BOX St Thomas à Becket	BOX Alternate	DITTERIDGE St Christopher
1st Sunday	09:30 Holy Communion Service	10:30 Lay Led		10:30 Holy Communion Family Service
1st Wednesday		10:30 Holy Communion Service		
1st Thursday	09:45 Round Table Prayers 10:15 Open House			
2nd Sunday	09:30 Morning Worship/Holy Communion 18:00 Evensong	10:30 Holy Communion Service	16:00 Heart (Rudloe)	18:00 Evensong
2nd Wednesday		10:30 Round Table Prayers	15:30 Grace (Box Methodist Church)	
2nd Thursday	09:45 Holy Communion Service 10:15 Open House 10:30 Sparkles			
2nd Friday	13:45 Shine 10:15 Open House			
3rd Sunday	09:30 Family Service 18:00 Rejoice & Praise	10:30 Holy Communion Service	18:00 Evensong (Chapel Plaister)	10:30 Holy Communion / Team Led Morning Prayer
3rd Wednesday		10:30 Holy Communion Service		
3rd Thursday	09:45 Round Table Prayers 10:15 Open House			
4th Sunday	10:30 BENEFICE Holy Communion Service (alternates churches) 18:00 Taizé			18:00 Evensong
4th Wednesday		10:30 Round Table Prayers		
4th Thursday	09:45 Holy Communion Service 10:15 Open House			

TYPICAL SERVICE PATTERN

The first thing to say is that this is a great place to have children and to be a child. Both Box and Colerne have very good Church of England primary schools and pre-school and play group provision. Older children have the choice of three excellent secondary schools in Chippenham and Corsham. There are also schools in Bath as well as a number of good private schools with a declared Christian ethos.

The links between the churches and primary schools are strong and supportive with school services in the churches for Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival, as well as musical events and end of year celebrations. It's standing room only for parents who are very much part of these important village milestones. Colerne welcomes small groups of Year 6 children on a regular basis to its mid-week service of Holy Communion as part of the school's RE curriculum.

In Ditteridge, the main provision for children and young people is through active involvement in the monthly family service and seasonal events.

In Box, [Grace](#), an ecumenical (and growing) after school church club, takes place in the Methodist Church on the second Wednesday for 0-11yrs.



In Rudloe, [Heart for Rudloe](#), an established Fresh Expression for local children and their parents including Forces Families. This vital outreach meets in the MOD Community Centre on the afternoon of second Sundays. We have military and MOD units in Corsham - not within the Benefice - and a military unit within Colerne parish. A variety of fun worship, story, music and prayers, along with food and refreshments are provided by a small and dedicated team. Often focussing on seasonal themes such as Christmas and Easter, the average attendance is 15 children and 15 adults. Sessions are planned with a group of parents to engage them in its smooth running.

In Colerne, [Sparkles](#), baby and toddler group meets on the third Thursday of the month and, [Shine](#), for 0-11 year olds) is on the third Friday of the month after school. Each are linked to the following Sunday's Family Service in which children are front and centre.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

For older children and teenagers we have, until recently, had **Toast** in Box.

In August, we run a benefice **Holiday Club** for primary children. In 2024, some 35 children joined us and it was a wonderful week of fun, bible learning, crafting and singing. Historically (pre-Covid) it has seen as many as 80 children attend.

There is a **Halloween drop-in** for trick-or-treaters using the Methodist Church as a venue in Box, which attracts well over 200 children, parents, and a few dogs. The free bacon sandwiches are a big draw, as well as crafts and a prayer table. In Colerne there is a lively **Light Party** which features party games, crafts sparkly lights and balloons.

At Christmas in St Thomas à Becket we have Christingle, The Box Nativity Trail and a “pot luck” nativity, where you come dressed as the part you wish to play. This year saw a glut of kings and a camel who became Joseph halfway through the service. Colerne has a Crib Service and also a Christingle Service.

Our villages are safe and friendly communities in which families can raise happy, confident and secure children.



We are in the process of buying a modern four-bedroom, three-reception room vicarage in Colerne for the new Priest in Charge in the Librook Benefice.

Colerne has a fabulous CE Primary School, transport to the nearby choices of excellent secondary schools, as well as the Pubs and a Shop. It is a good base from which to serve the benefice, and Bath, Corsham, Chippenham and Bristol are all within reach.

The purchase has yet to be finalised, so we are unable to include the details here. We are confident this will be an attractive and functional vicarage for a family, a single person or a couple. It is finished to a high standard, and our property department provides a high level of support to those who live in a Diocesan property. This includes working creatively to make sure that the property will work for you from day one.

If you have more detailed questions about the potential vicarage, please do contact the Associate Archdeacon, Revd Adam Beaumont at adam.beaumont@bristoldiocese.org who would love to arrange a time to chat.

THE VICARAGE



This specification is intended to be complementary to the Role Descriptions, the Ordinal, the Canons of the Church of England, the Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of Clergy, the Bishops Licence, and the Statement of Particulars issued to the successful applicant.

However, the following are the criteria that will be used to shortlist candidates. Should you chose to apply please consider in particular what relevant evidence you have of your experience in these areas and the impact this has made.

QUALIFICATIONS/ TRAINING

Essential

- ♦ Ordained priest within the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, or a Church whose orders it recognises
- ♦ Satisfactory completion of Initial Ministerial Education
- ♦ Fully trained and committed to safeguarding in order to be able lead the effective implementation of safeguarding policies
- ♦ A willingness to engage with further training that enhances the role

Desirable

- ♦ Training in rural mission, fresh expressions, or leading change

EXPERIENCE

Essential

- ♦ Leading a church in the continued discernment of its vision, developing strategy which looks to the future and builds on the past
- ♦ The management of all aspects of church life, including the effective implementation of strategy and policy alongside the day-to-day governance and administration of parish life
- ♦ Effective engagement with all ages, young and old, in order to help them to follow Jesus and serve others
- ♦ Forming, growing and leading teams of people (e.g. ministry teams, PCCs, or other groups) in collaborative and developmental ways to encourage the best out of people, to share ministry, and to see everyone fulfil their own vocation
- ♦ The oversight, coordination and management of employees and volunteers across a range of roles
- ♦ Working creatively with schools to deepen school-church relationships, to add value to children's spiritual development, and to further embed community engagement

Desirable

- ♦ Leading in a multi-parish context
- ♦ Leading mission and ministry in a rural setting
- ♦ The formal line management and training of staff /ministers / parish officers
- ♦ Experience of school governance

PERSON SPECIFICATION

KNOWLEDGE/ SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Essential

- ♦ A skilful attention to theology and scripture which informs high quality preaching and discipleship which is accessible to all
- ♦ Sympathetic and creative leading of worship, through a range of styles
- ♦ Caring and generous pastoral skills which, for example, use the occasional offices for mission as well as ministry
- ♦ The ability to inspire and motivate the church into new areas of mission, and the courage to stop those which are no longer appropriate
- ♦ Good time management and administrative skills
- ♦ Sound IT skills, fluent in the use of 'office' software

Desirable

- ♦ Understanding of the issues faced by Forces families
 - ♦ Understanding the landscape of education and how it relates to the governance of schools
-

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

Essential

- ♦ Someone who has discerned a deep and rational sense of call to this benefice, and has a vision to build on the opportunities for mission and ministry here
- ♦ Someone who has a clear love for God, which overflows into a generous, joyful love for people
- ♦ A collaborator who is passionate about working together within and across communities and who seeks to be embedded within them – knowing people and being known
- ♦ Someone who is naturally outward facing, who is able to build relationships and trust across the parishes
- ♦ A leader who is able to inspire, enthuse, and motivate with energy and resilience
- ♦ Someone who is faithful in prayer, for us and with us
- ♦ A person who is keen to work with others across the deanery and diocese, and is excited about playing a full part in the transformation of the church through the diocesan strategy
- ♦ Someone who takes care of themselves, spiritually and physically, ensuring that they give appropriate time to personal relationships, family life, friendship, recreation, retreat, personal health, days off, and their full holiday entitlement

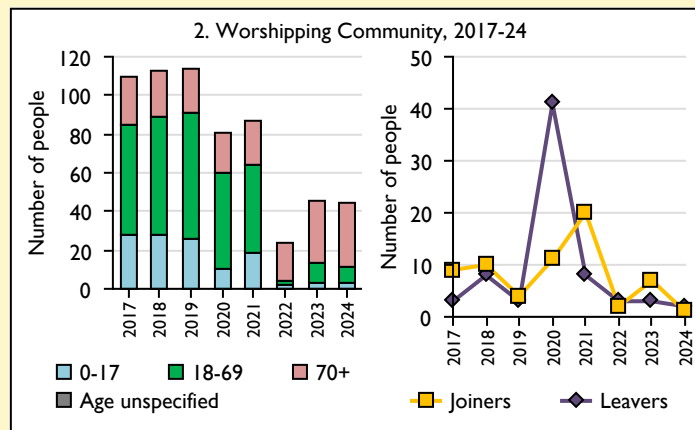
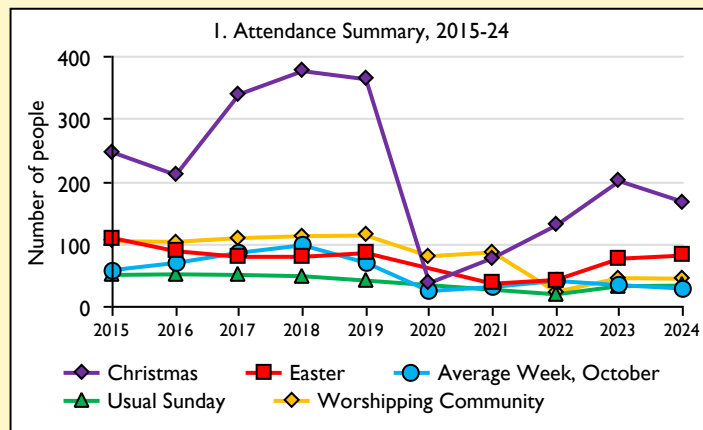
Desirable

- ♦ A good sense of humour!
-

OTHER

- ♦ Access to own car to travel around the benefice

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Box in the deanery of CHIPPENHAM



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 3629

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	21%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	23%	37%	33%
% aged 45-69	36%	28%	31%
% aged 70 & over	20%	11%	14%
% Christian	46%	40%	46%
% non-Christian religion	3%	7%	11%

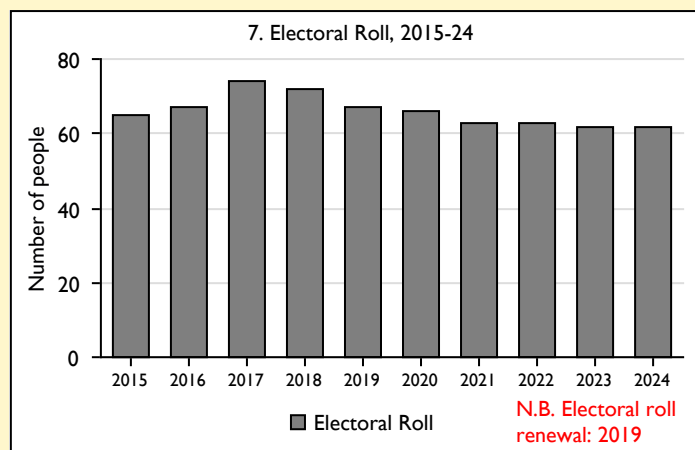
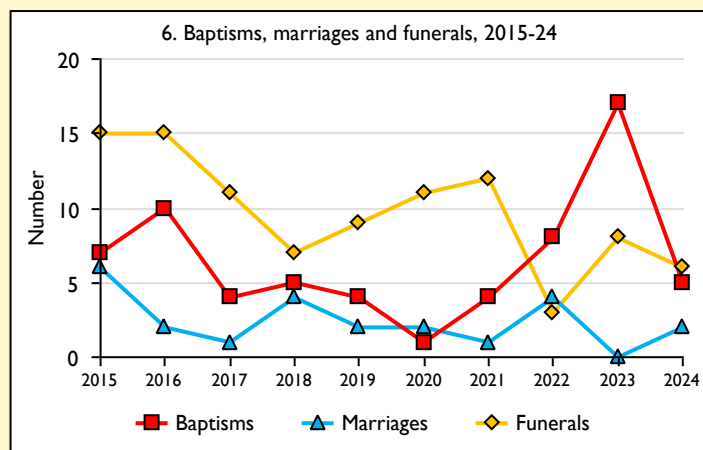
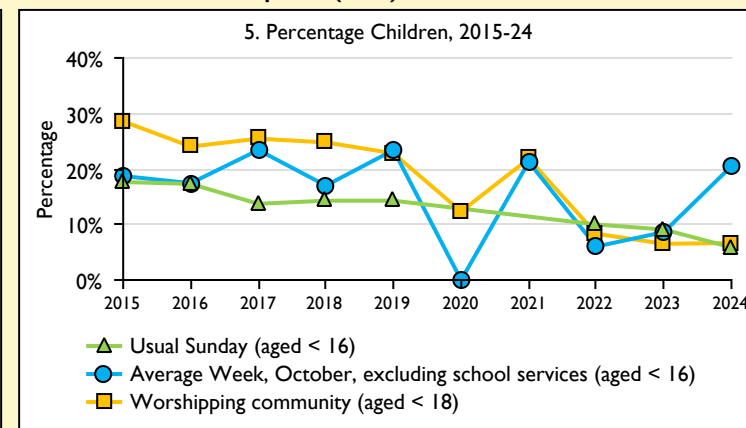
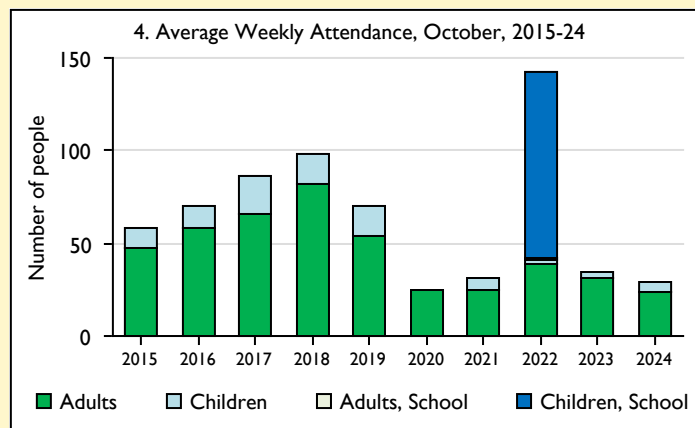
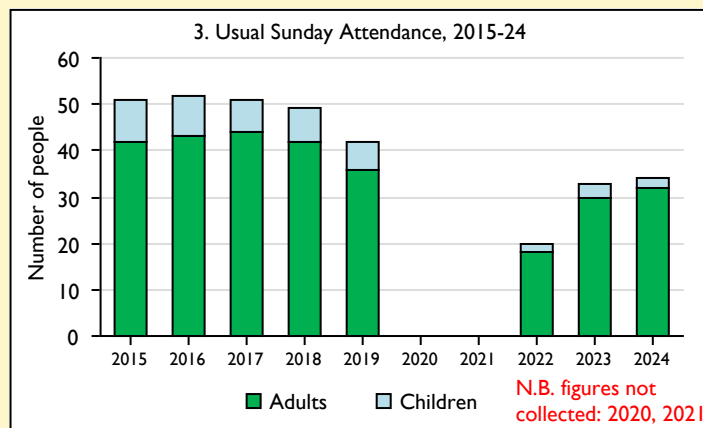
Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 10148

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,178=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1RaS4CS>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and
<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2024): 2

Parish Code: 550124



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish

Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

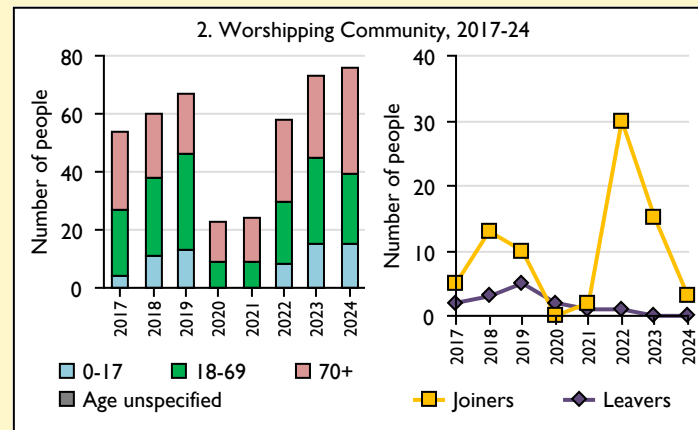
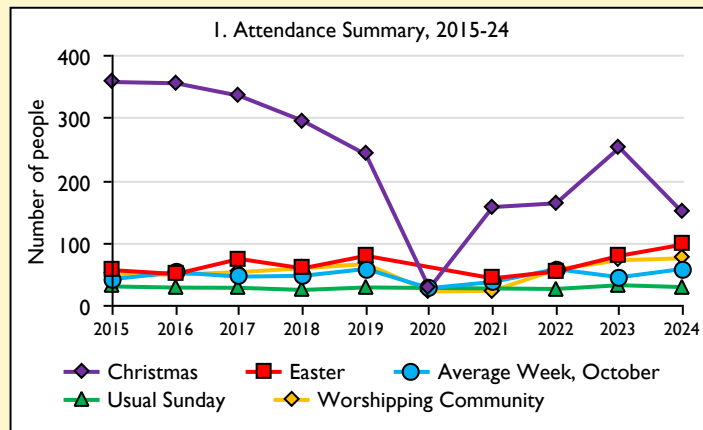
Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 2; 2016 2; 2017 2; 2018 2; 2019 2; 2020 3; 2021 2; 2022 2; 2023 2; 2024 2.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 27/03/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Colerne in the deanery of CHIPPENHAM



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 2701

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	26%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	32%	37%	33%
% aged 45-69	29%	28%	31%
% aged 70 & over	13%	11%	14%
% Christian	46%	40%	46%
% non-Christian religion	4%	7%	11%

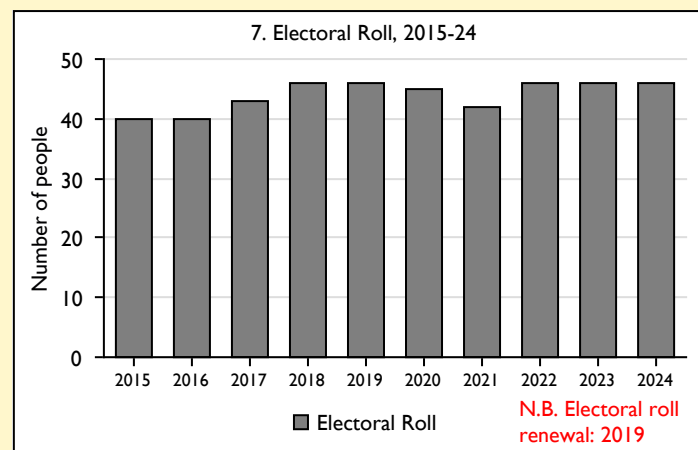
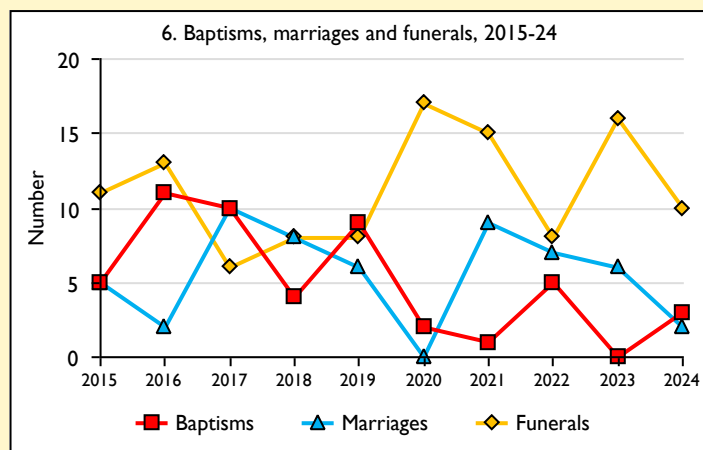
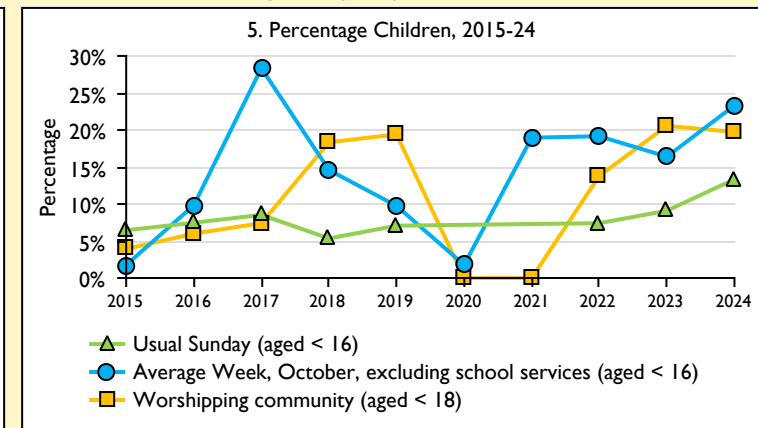
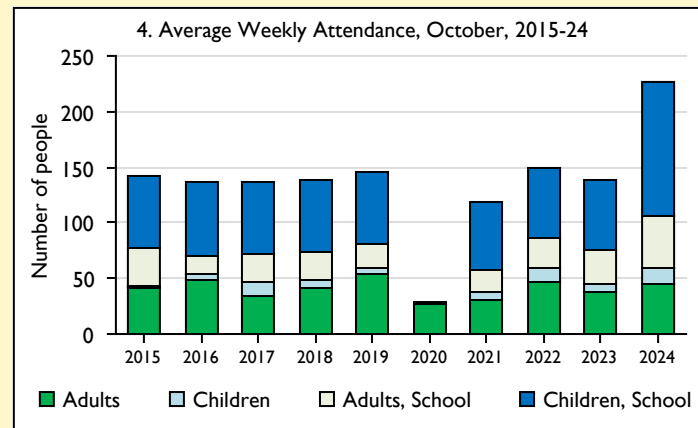
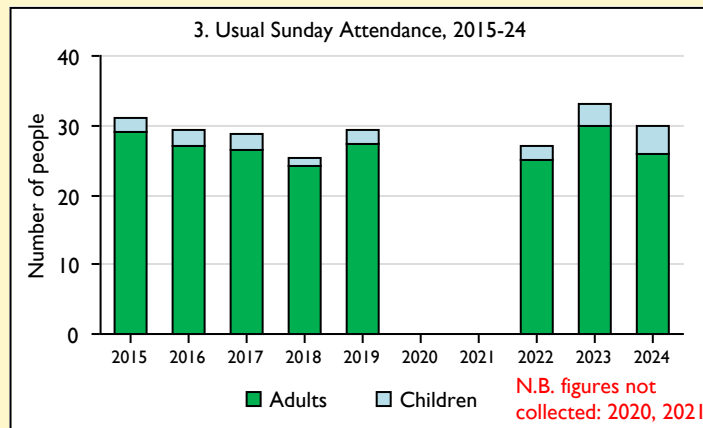
Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 11568

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,178=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1RaS4CS>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and
<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2024): 1

Parish Code: 550131



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish

Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

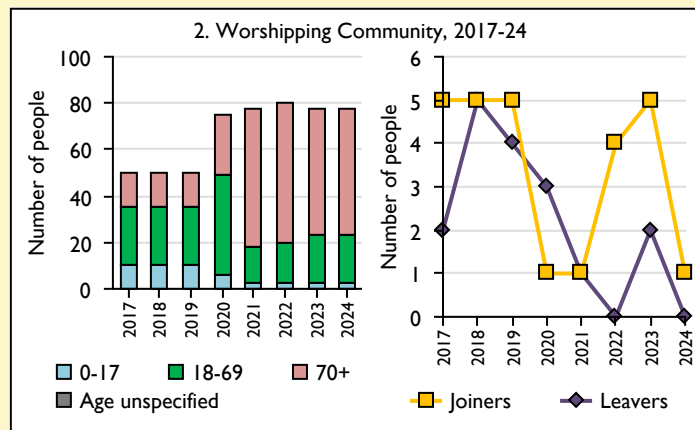
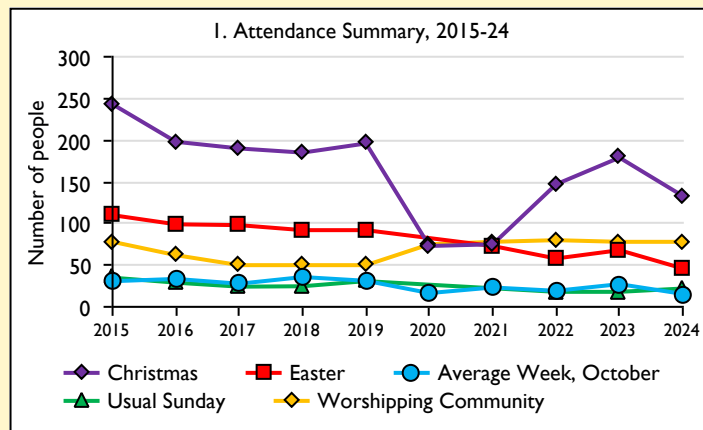
Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 1; 2016 1; 2017 1; 2018 1; 2019 1; 2020 1; 2021 1; 2022 1; 2023 1; 2024 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 27/03/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Ditteridge in the deanery of CHIPPENHAM



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 163

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	19%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	21%	37%	33%
% aged 45-69	37%	28%	31%
% aged 70 & over	23%	11%	14%
% Christian	61%	40%	46%
% non-Christian religion	2%	7%	11%

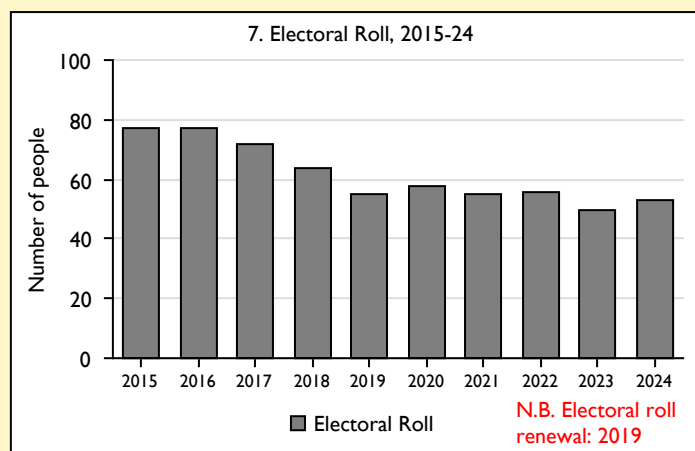
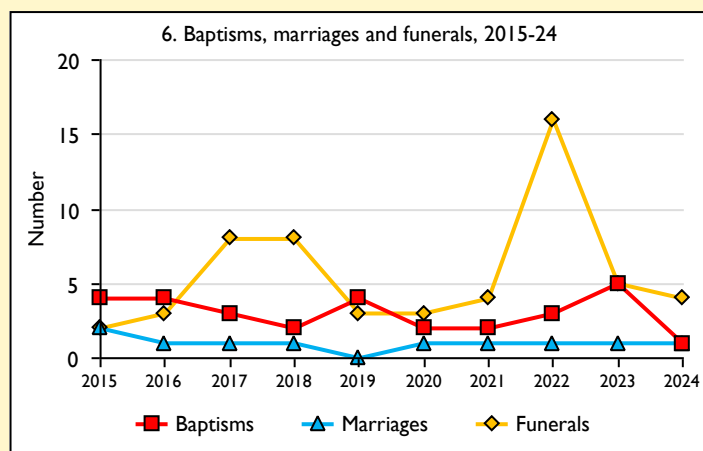
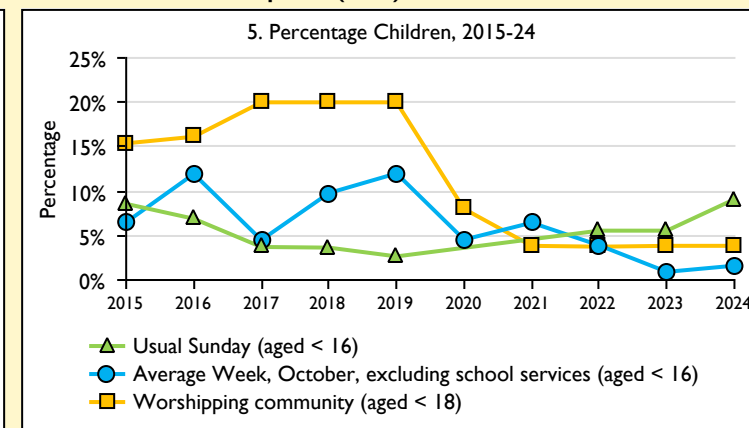
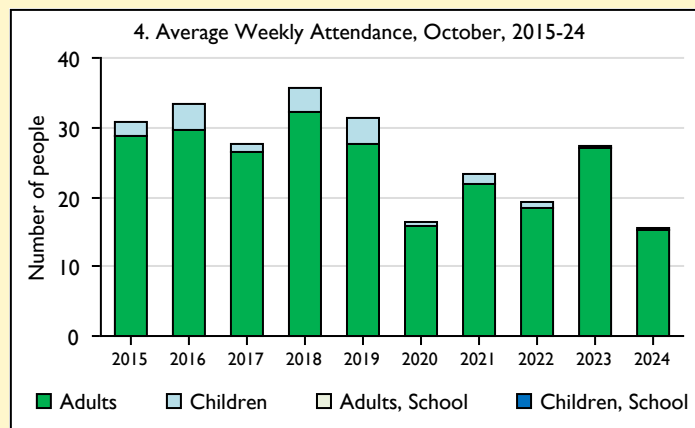
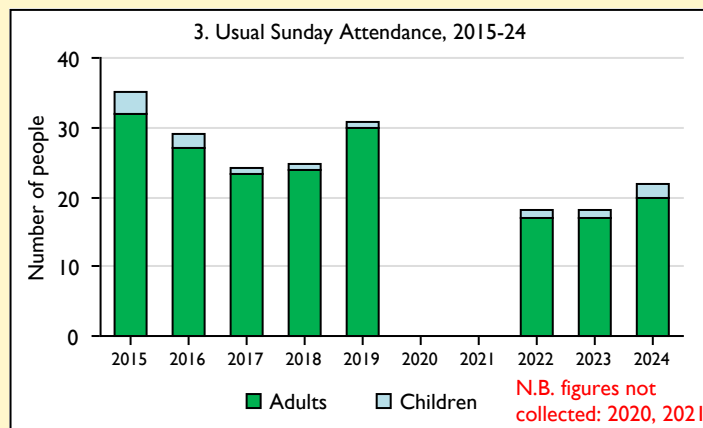
Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 11299

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,178=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1RaS4CS>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and
<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2024): 1

Parish Code: 550135



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish
Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

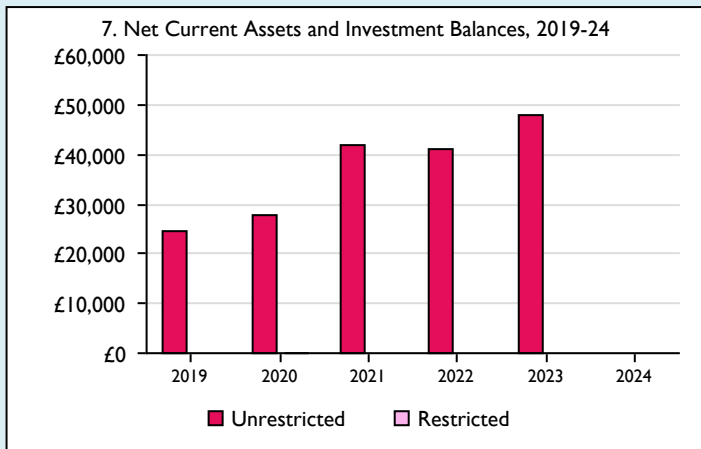
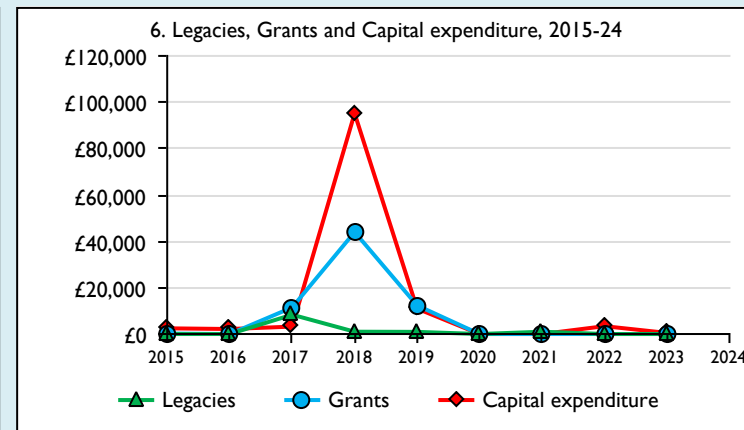
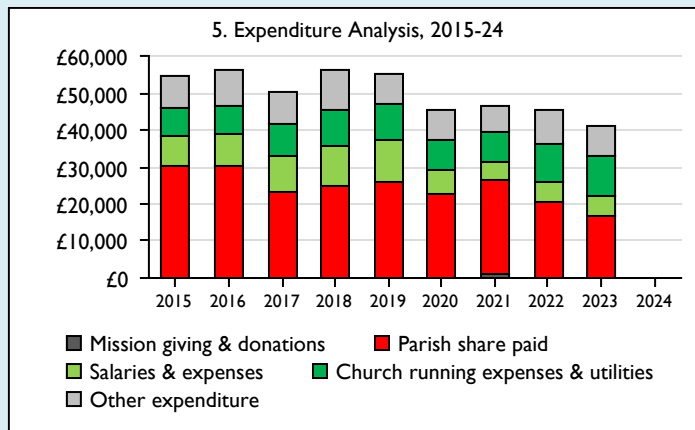
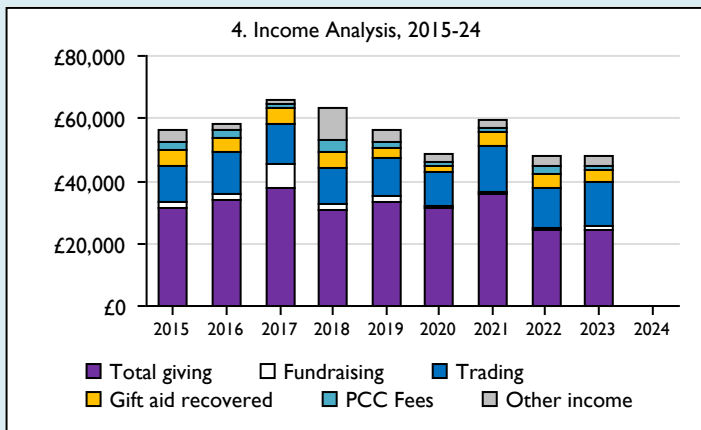
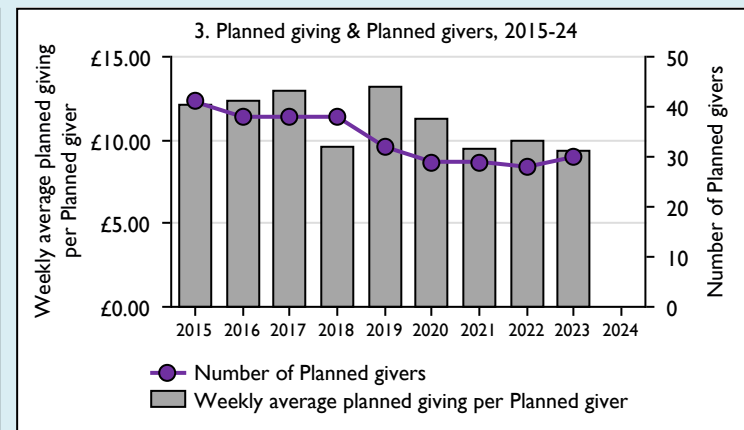
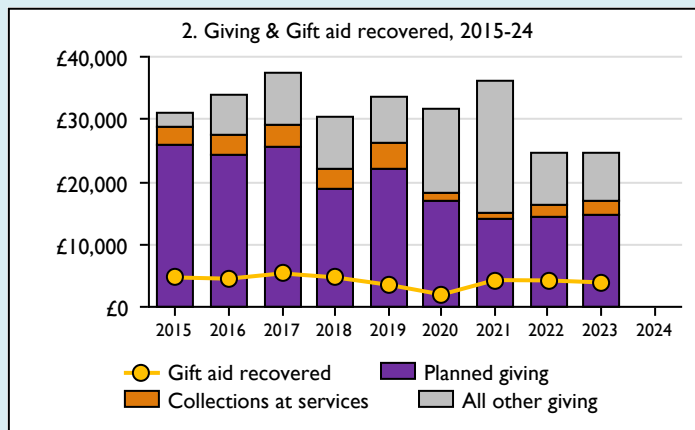
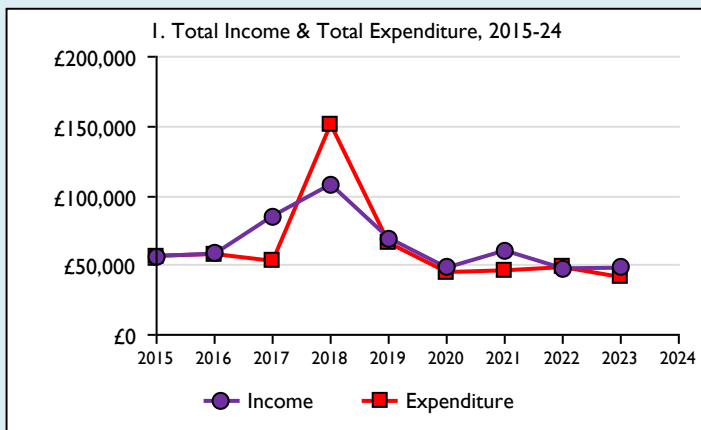
Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 1; 2016 1; 2017 1; 2018 1; 2019 1; 2020 1; 2021 1; 2022 1; 2023 1; 2024 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 27/03/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Box in the deanery of CHIPPENHAM



Weekly average planned giving per planned giver (2024)

Parish: nan
Diocese: 0.0

Number of churches in parish (2024): 2

Parish code: 550124

Notes & definitions

This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish; gaps may be the result of missing returns.

Graph 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the **Total giving** figure in graph 4.

Graph 3: **Planned giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving; **Planned givers** = Tax efficient planned givers + Other planned givers.

Graph 4 shows income other than grants and legacies.

Graph 4: **Total giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving + Collections at services + All other giving, including special appeals.

Graph 4: **Other income** = Dividends, interest, income from property + Any other income.

Graph 5 shows expenditure other than capital expenditure.

Graph 5: **Other expenditure** = Fund-raising activities + Mission and evangelism costs + Cost of trading + Other expenses.

Graph 5: **Running expenses & utilities** also includes governance costs.

Graphs 1-6: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined.

For further definitions please see the guidance notes attached to the Return of Parish Finance:

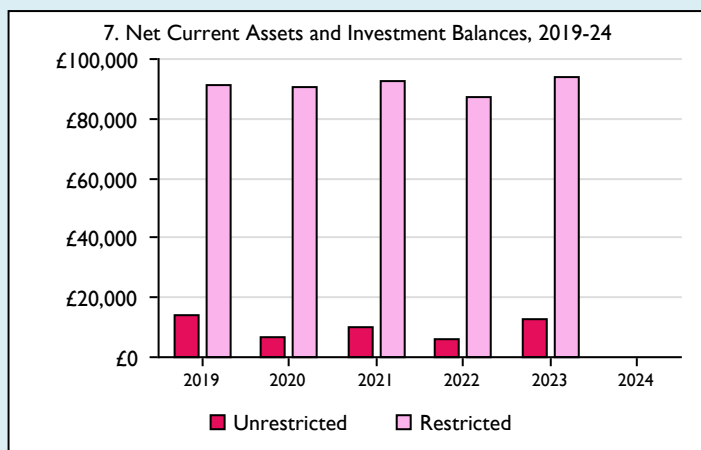
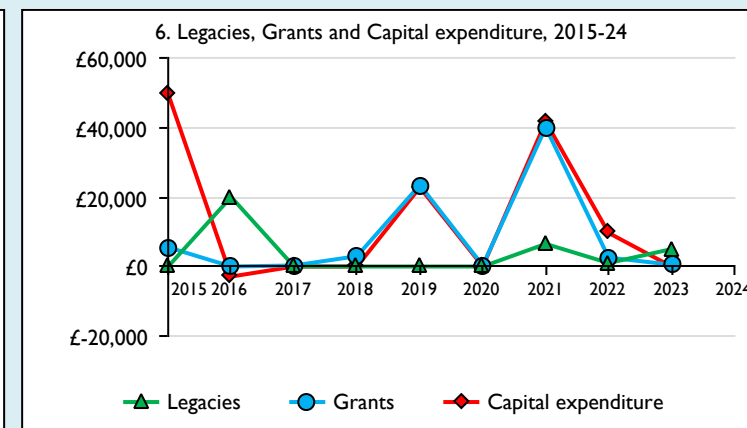
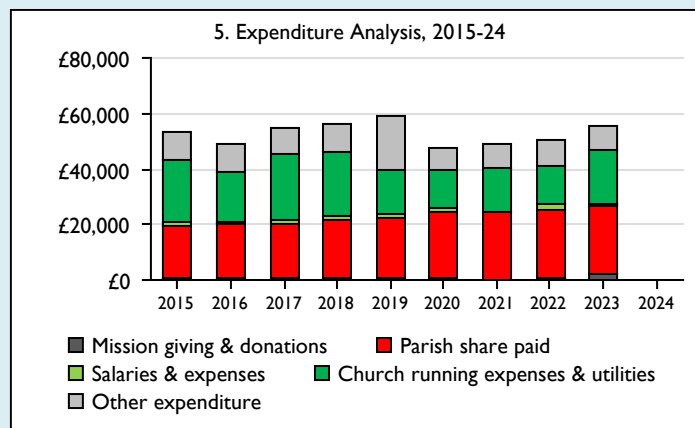
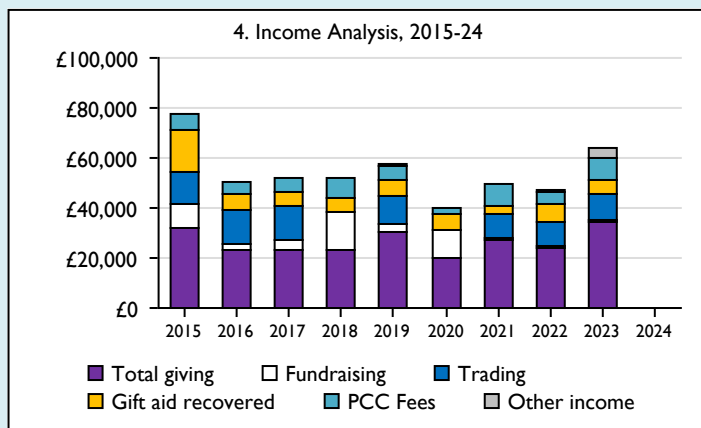
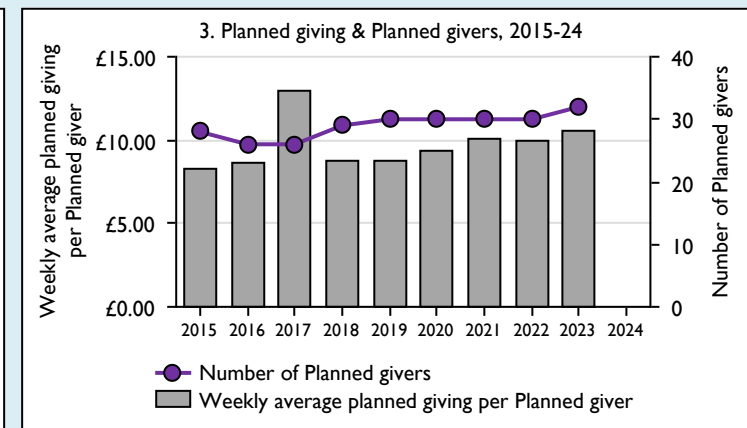
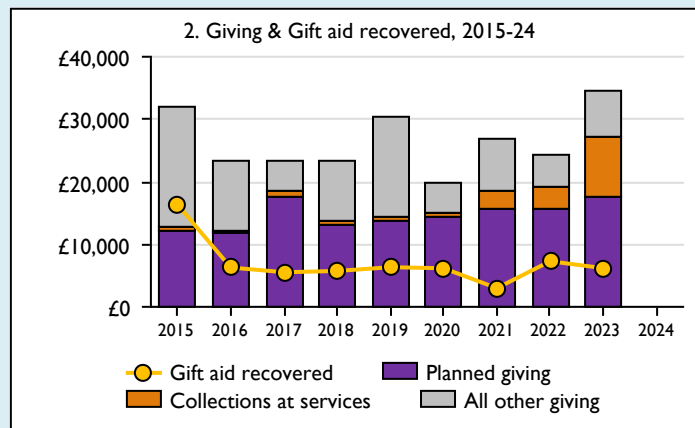
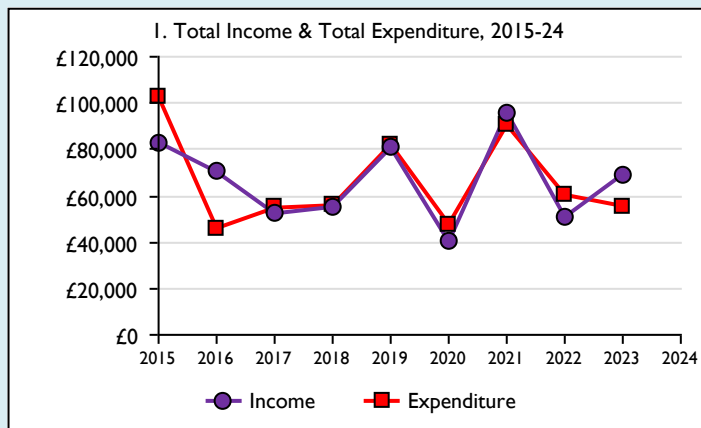
Variations from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 2;2016 2;2017 2;2018 2;2019 2;2020 2;2021 2;2022 2;2023 2.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 27/03/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Colerne in the deanery of CHIPPENHAM



Weekly average planned giving per planned giver (2024)

Parish: nan
Diocese: 0.0

Notes & definitions

This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish; gaps may be the result of missing returns.

Graph 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the **Total giving** figure in graph 4.

Graph 3: **Planned giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving; **Planned givers** = Tax efficient planned givers + Other planned givers.

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Graph 4: **Other income** = Dividends, interest, income from property + Any other income.

Graph 5 shows expenditure other than capital expenditure.

Graph 5: **Other expenditure** = Fund-raising activities + Mission and evangelism costs + Cost of trading + Other expenses.

Graph 5: **Running expenses & utilities** also includes governance costs.

Graphs 1-6: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined.

For further definitions please see the guidance notes attached to the Return of Parish Finance:

Number of churches in parish (2024): 1

Parish code: 550131

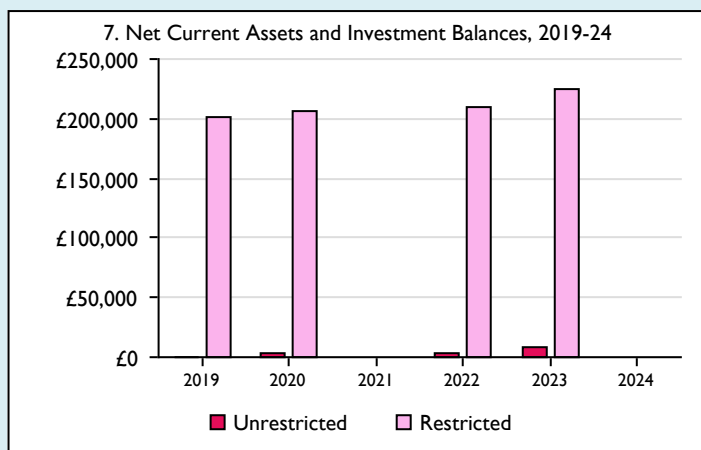
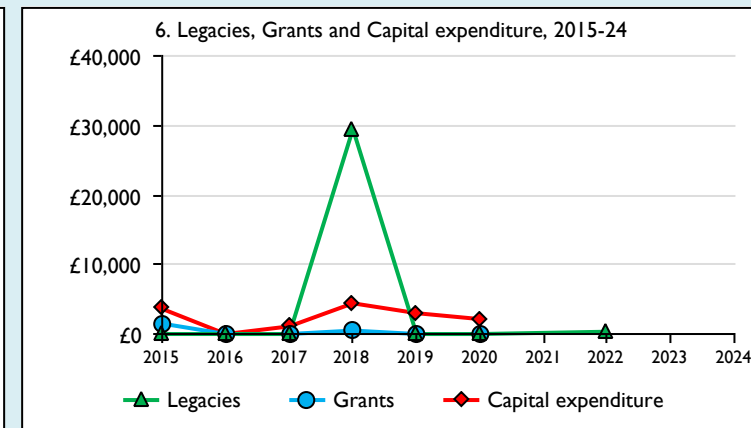
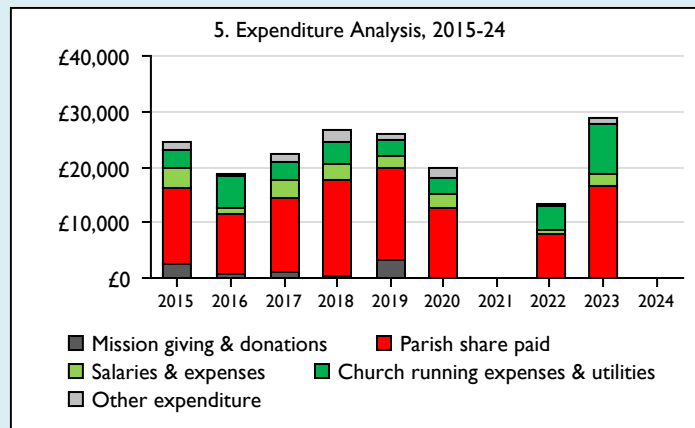
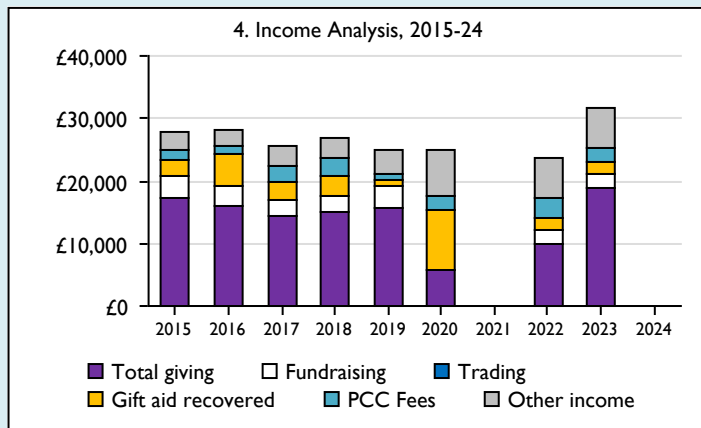
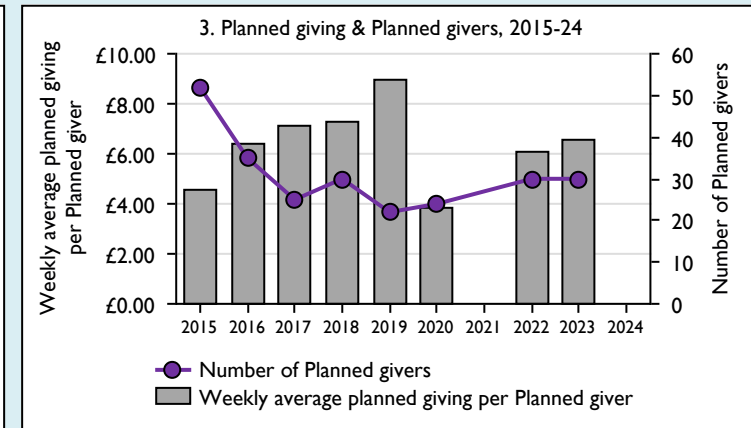
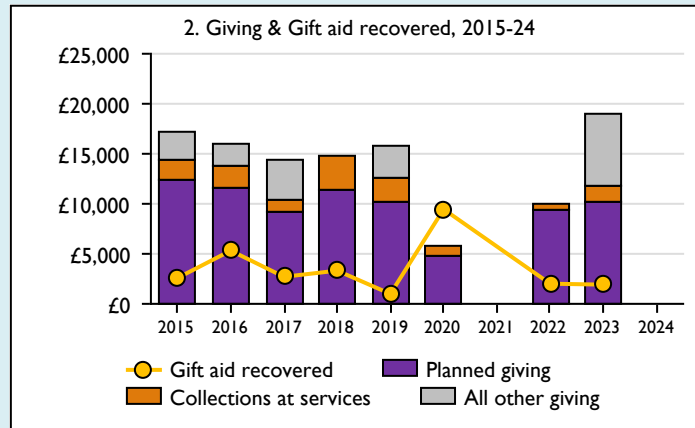
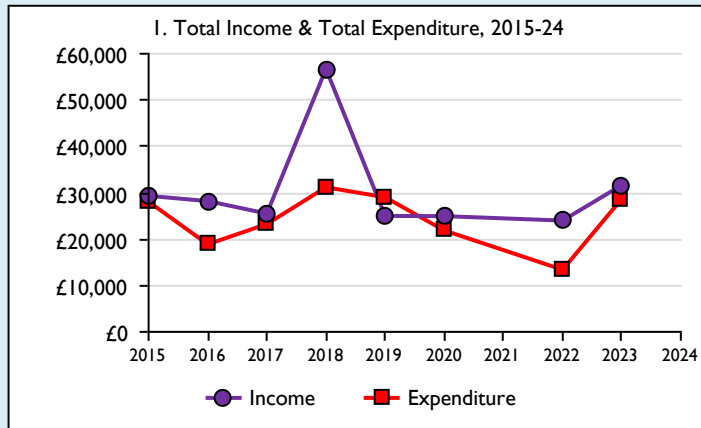
Variations from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 1;2016 1;2017 1;2018 1;2019 1;2020 1;2021 1;2022 1;2023 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 27/03/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Ditteridge in the deanery of CHIPPENHAM



Weekly average planned giving per planned giver (2024)

Parish: nan
Diocese: 0.0

Notes & definitions

This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish; gaps may be the result of missing returns.

Graph 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the **Total giving** figure in graph 4.

Graph 3: **Planned giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving; **Planned givers** = Tax efficient planned givers + Other planned givers.

Graph 4 shows income other than grants and legacies.

Graph 4: **Total giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving + Collections at services + All other giving, including special appeals.

Graph 4: **Other income** = Dividends, interest, income from property + Any other income.

Graph 5 shows expenditure other than capital expenditure.

Graph 5: **Other expenditure** = Fund-raising activities + Mission and evangelism costs + Cost of trading + Other expenses.

Graph 5: **Running expenses & utilities** also includes governance costs.

Graphs 1-6: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined.

For further definitions please see the guidance notes attached to the Return of Parish Finance:

Number of churches in parish (2024): 1

Parish code: 550135

Variations from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 1;2016 1;2017 1;2018 1;2019 1;2020 1;2022 1;2023 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 27/03/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

NEXT STEPS

Thank you for reading this far, we are praying that our profile has helped in your discernment about this role. We pray too that God is putting a deep sense of call into the heart of the person who will be our next Priest in Charge.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role then please contact
Revd Adam Beaumont, Associate Archdeacon,
adam.beaumont@bristoldiocese.org



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