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*The Parishes of Aylesbeare, Clyst St George, Clyst St Mary, Farringdon, Woodbury with Exton, and Woodbury Salterton*

October 2025

Dear Friends,

A Proposed New Pattern of Worship

The current rota is not working. I would like your help to fix it.

When I moved to Woodbury to become your Vicar in September 2024, I inherited an unsustainable and unbalanced pattern of worship which varied considerably from week to week.

The then rota, contained on the first week 5 services: 3 Holy Communions, 1 Family Service, and 1 Evening Service. Each week, thereafter, varying in combination of service types and number. Some churches alternated on Sundays to avoid clashing locally. Overall, the service pattern was not balanced regarding the frequency of Holy Communion services offered but was for the Family Services.

In January this year, a new service pattern was introduced and implemented. This, our current, pattern has an improved balance of services, but there is still room for improvement. This pattern has a fairer spread of Holy Communion services, but there is no longer a Family Service each week. A mistake was made in changing this. The trend for some churches to alternate Sundays remains.

During my time away, I took a fresh look at the rota and found myself thinking ‘What is the ideal rota for the White Cross Mission Community?’ As I reflected on this question, I concluded that the ideal rota should:

* Include no more than 4 services on any Sunday;
* Offer at least one Family service each week;
* Limit the number of Holy Communion services to two;
* Balance the service times so one person can lead more than one service, if needed.
* And have no more than 2 services at the same time.

With these aims in mind, I experimented with different rota patterns until I found one which fulfilled the aims while changing as little as possible.

The proposal (found below) I am sharing with you is one I feel meets all those aims. Moreover, this proposal means all services within the White Cross Mission Community can be led by the current ministry team. However, it means the provision of some churches alternating Sundays ending.

Importantly, we are excited to be introducing a new Wednesday morning service of Holy Communion at St Andrew’s Church, Exton, starting at the end of November. This will be held at 10:30 am and will be a shorter said Communion service lasting around half an hour. To help us focus support and grow this service, regular Sunday Worship will be suspended at St Andrew’s Church, Exton, for a trial basis after Christmas. The ministry team and I hope that by focusing on a Midweek Service a thriving congregation will develop.

Through sharing this proposal with you, I am seeking your feedback. It is important to me because it is essential we work together in finding a rota that works for all of us. Nevertheless, no rota is ever perfect, so if you spot a problem, I would be grateful if you could suggest a possible solution. I am next meeting with the Churchwardens in early January 2026. At that meeting any comments and suggestions will be reviewed and a new rota agreed. The rota agreed then will not begin until after Easter.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our Mission Community. Together, we can create a worship pattern that is sustainable, works well and enable us to serve and worship God in faith and fellowship.

Your friend and vicar,

A close up of a signature

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Lewis

Current Rota

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|  | Aylesbeare | Clyst St George | Clyst St Mary | Exton | Farringdon | Woodbury | Woodbury Salterton |
|  |
| Week 1 | 11:15  Holy Communion |  | 09:30  Family Service | 18:00  Evening Worship |  | 10:30 Family Service | 09:30  Holy Communion |  |
| Week 2 |  | 09:30  Family Service |  |  | 11:15  Holy Communion | 11:15 Holy Communion |  |  |
| Week 3 | 09:30  Family Service |  | 09:30  Holy Communion | 09:30  Holy Communion |  | 18:00 Evensong | 09:30 Family Service |  |
| Week 4 |  | 09:30  Holy Communion |  |  | 09:30 Morning Worship | 11:15  Holy Communion |  |  |
| Week 5 | 10.30 Mission Community Holy Communion Service | | | | | | |

New Rota Proposal

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|  | Aylesbeare | Clyst St George | Clyst St Mary | Farringdon | Woodbury | Woodbury Salterton |
| Week 1 | 11:15  Holy Communion |  |  | 11:15  Morning Worship | 09:30  Family Service | 09:30  Holy Communion |
| Week 2 |  | 09:30  Holy Communion | 09:30  Family Service |  | 11:15  Holy Communion |  |
| Week 3 | 09:30  Family Service |  |  | 11:15  Holy Communion | 18:00 Evensong | 09:30  Family Service |
| Week 4 |  | 09:30  Family Service | 09:30/11:15  Holy Communion |  | 11:15  Holy Communion |  |
| Week 5 | 10.30 Mission Community Holy Communion Service | | | | | |