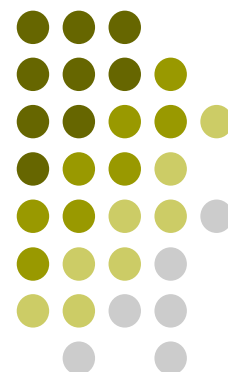


Annual Review of 2019, published for Annual Parochial Church Meetings March/April 2020

**The Greenway Benefice - Holy Trinity, Badgeworth,
St Paul's, Shurdington, and St Mary's, Witcombe
with Bentham**



Find us on [achurchnearyou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) and on Facebook @greenwaychurches

The Greenway Benefice Team
*(supporting Holy Trinity Badgeworth, St Paul's Shurdington,
and St Mary's Witcombe with Bentham):*

VICAR

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Usual day off: Tuesday

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Mr Paul Stanfield	Mrs Christine Jeffs	Mrs Clare Stewart

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Three in One Magazine:

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Please note that this document only contains the Annual Review of organisations and events in the Greenway Benefice .

For a full picture of church life and worship, including finance, it should be read in conjunction with the Churchwarden's, Trustee's and Treasurer's reports for each parish. These will be available as separate documents shortly before their respective APCMs , due to be held in March and April 2020

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VICAR'S INTRODUCTION TO THE GREENWAY BENEFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

In 2019, all three churches in the benefice continued to show Christian love and fellowship. I'm impressed by the faith and resilience of our members.

We continue to meet regularly in all three churches, and hold festivals together as a benefice, as well as continuing to worship with friends from Shurdington Chapel and other local Christians in the school in our "5th Sunday" benefice services. This joint work is largely due to the generous Christianity of headteacher Jon Millin and chapel pastor Steve Jones.

At our benefice Sunday services, we enjoyed the company of Lilly the donkey, on Palm Sunday in April. Many of us walked through the village of Shurdington before worshipping together in school. We also celebrated together in June. And in September, we met together at school to launch our first ever Eco week, which involved many local businesses and organisations, as well as residents and the school family, all doing some sort of work for the environment. All three churches are working towards the Eco Church awards. And finally, in December we held our community carol service with Bishop Rachel, the school choir, the benefice choir and the Open the Book team; a packed school hall, with sparklers, carols and mince pies!

It continues to be a pleasure to work with the school, preschool and café, as well as to have occasional visits to the Scouting groups, and welcome them into church. We have also renewed connections with Meadows Day Nursery. The café, Beauty and the Teacup, in Shurdington, offers a great hub for us to help work to get to know and build the community, supporting Wendy and Keira in their passion for this work, with the Book Club and Lent Lunches, among other events.

We are blessed with Christian colleagues, lay and ordained, who exercise their ministry generously in many ways, some unseen and some more obvious. My thanks to everyone who does their bit, especially our church wardens and local ministry team.

Early in 2019 our licensed Reader Robert Poole stepped down as administrator and has taken on responsibility for most of our funerals, as Funeral Minister; my grateful thanks to him for this ministry. As a result of Robert's change of role, we advertised for a new administrator and subsequently welcomed Chris Langham into the role. Chris has settled in very well, making a positive difference to the way our benefice runs. There are many others who lead worship on Sundays and during the week, bible study groups and morning prayer. My thanks to all of them, and especially Revd Ian Gobey who has continued to support the benefice, even during significant health issues. Rachel's work in the care homes continues to grow and worship there is very special. We also said farewell to April and Alan Jones, as they moved to Bugle, Cornwall.

We held another Christening Celebration party in January 2019, which was a well-attended chance to remember our baptisms and spend some time in fellowship. There were a range of different services in the benefice, including a songs of praise style Hymns and Pimms service and a churchyard service.

Throughout the year, there were occasional family workshops at St Paul's, for primary aged children and their adults. We also tried something new at Witcombe, where we held our Christingle Service in the village hall on Advent Sunday.

The benefice Away Day at Prinknash Abbey was another great example of us getting together to study the bible, worship and spend time getting to know each other. The weekly bible study and additional study

groups during Lent offer examples to learn and grow as Christians. In December, we also prepared four adults for confirmation, which are due to take place on Easter Eve, 2020.

During 2019, our music ministry has changed, with the sad death of Ron Scott, our well-known musician at St Mary's. At the end of 2019, Matt Richardson resigned as organist of St Paul and Holy Trinity's. We are grateful for all that Ron and Matt offered through their music. We are delighted that Matt remains with us as choir director. A group of us are looking at how we can best develop our music ministry across the benefice in 2020 and beyond.

We are planning to welcome our curate, Rebecca Spear, in June. In 2019 much work and prayer has gone in to preparing and planning for her arrival in the benefice.

Last year, I said that finances have been *"a continuing source of concern, but by prayer, faith, generosity and sheer hard work, the picture is not as bleak as we had thought at the start of the year"*.

The same comments apply to 2019, although things are getting harder. Again, thanks to those who work so hard to raise funds, through community activities throughout the year, and a particular thank you to Rachel for her unstinting work in setting up and running the first Badgeworth Christmas Tree Festival. We continue to work together on finances, looking for solutions and ways to use our resources to the best effect.

In an annual report, it is only possible to scratch the surface, so please look at the separate reports from each church, and at the other benefice reports contained in this document, to get a bigger picture of what we are up to! Apologies to anyone not mentioned here, but please know that you are all much appreciated in your service to our loving God.

Late in 2019, we started a two-year programme, which sees the Local Ministry Team as our core group in "Flourish" – a new diocesan initiative which is designed to help us develop and nurture confident disciples. This promises to be an exciting way to refresh our team, and to enthuse church members in their faith and discipleship.

I give thanks for all that has gone before, in 2019, for so much that is good in these parishes, and pray for the year ahead, for our flourishing as individuals, as churches, as a benefice and as the body of Christ in this place.

Blessings,

Susan

The Reverend Susan Cooke

READER'S REPORT

This has been the first full year of my being Funeral Minister for the Benefice. As a result, I have carried out a large number of funerals over the year many of these have been long-standing members of our congregations and communities. Reg Cooper, Rod Penston, Harry Cole, Ken Twinning, Ron Scott, Muriel Organ, Joan Ings to name but a few.

As I often say, to take funeral services is a great privilege and to be able to do God's work in supporting relatives and friends at one of the darker times in their lives has its own, special reward. To be thanked and given lovely feedback regarding services in church and crematoriums is a wonderful bonus.

Revd Susan has taken quite a few funerals during the year and we are indebted to organists such as Matt Richardson, John Stanley and Ian James, to Vergers such as Mary Tombs, Rachel Cottell, Mike Cass, Lisa Pearson, Andrew Martin and Sue Padfield and all who indirectly support this ministry by doing theirs. Without the help of Organists, Vergers and others, this valuable and valued ministry would be much impoverished.

As some of you may know, Cheltenham Crematorium has undergone a massive transformation with two new chapels and support facilities. Along with the changes in buildings has come an introduction of new IT which, when I first saw it, made me wonder if I was in a chapel or the Star Ship Enterprise! Fortunately, the lovely staff are always on hand to help and guide if needed (even if I was locked out after one funeral).

I understand that the Severn Vale Deanery will be joining the Gloucester Diocese Funeral Project this coming year. This is a "One Stop Shop" for Funeral Directors to make contact and arrange funerals in churches across the Diocese. To help with this it will be useful if the Benefice Diary can be kept up to date with events in all of our churches so as funeral arrangements do not clash with those events. Being part of the Funeral Project will not make a great deal of difference to the Benefice as such, though Revd Susan and I may well be asked to cover for funerals in/for other parishes on the odd occasion.

Along with funerals I have, on average, taken three services per month across our three churches. These were usually Morning Prayer/Praise services although some special services, such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Good Friday, made up the glorious mix of ministry.

Revd Susan and I have, sadly, had few opportunities to share many services during the year, but with a new curate arriving in the coming year the possibility of Revd Susan and I being at the same place at the same time may well increase.

Robert Poole

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Firstly, thank you to all of you who have been so supportive as I get to know just how many different tasks have been carried out by my predecessors, some regularly, some annually, and some "we're not sure when it was last done but you should have the details in the office" enquiries!

With the re-organisation of benefice finances, and Rob continuing with his funeral ministry, my role is very different to the tasks carried out in 2018. I'm not involved with finance, apart from passing any cheques received to the correct treasurers, which has allowed me time to take on some Baptism and Wedding administration. My office hours are slightly different – the later slot on a Thursday means that wedding couples can drop in after work if they need to provide any documents.

The main church diaries are now online, so it is easier to see what's going on across the benefice. If you are planning any events, please let me know the dates as early as possible so I can include them in my regular updates to the three PCCs. I will also publicise events in the weekly sheet if I know about them (space permitting).

Chris Langham

BENEFICE CHOIR 2019

This year we welcomed three new members, and at the end of the year we had ten members, from all three parishes, but we are still very short of male voices. We are a friendly, social group, and rehearsals are informal and enjoyable. New members always welcome.

During the year we have supported worship at Benefice services and other special events.

Our year started with a choral evensong at St Paul's in January, then another (with different anthem and psalms) to learn for Holy Trinity in March.

At Easter we supported the Palm Sunday benefice service in school, and sang in Holy Trinity during Holy Week.

In August we supported the singing at St Paul's Hymns and Pimms service.

September saw us at St. Mary's for our third choral evensong of the year, then in November we were back at St Mary's for some reflective singing during the All Soul's service

Our benefice service in December was well attended, with Bishop Rachel present, and we sang with the school choir.

It wouldn't be Christmas without carol singing, and we again sang in the Cheeseroller's, Shurdington, in aid of charity. Mince pies and coffee afterwards were much appreciated.

Christmas was again busy, with three Parish Carol Services to support, but we always appreciate singing at these occasions – a full church and candle lighting adds greatly to the atmosphere.

Looking ahead – we have started rehearsing some secular music when our church commitments allow – you can expect to hear Rutter's 'The Reluctant Dragon' at some time in 2020!

THREE IN ONE

Three-in-One continued to be published each month. During 2019 the print run varied between 660 and 680 copies per month. The content includes news from the parishes as well as the communities. Of note is that the planning applications continue to be widely appreciated by readers. We appreciated articles written by people throughout the benefice and encourage more people to contribute. We were pleased to welcome a number of new advertisers to the extent that the (self-imposed) 20-page threshold was reached late in 2019. The usual drop-out of a few at the change of year means that at present we have space for new advertisers to join us.

Ian Davies Business Manager, 3 in 1

LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM REPORT 2019

The team continued to exercise leadership in ministry across the benefice during the year:

- by working with the Vicar in continuing to put into practice the aims of the Diocesan LIFE vision and in consultation with the PCCs
- establishing a 5 year strategy plan for the Benefice, the guiding principle being for all 3 Churches to be thriving at that stage whilst considering a United Benefice
- in supporting and being members of teams involved in the pastoral care work of the benefice
- giving support for, and enabling the activities for children and young people
- by support for all benefice events and activities through prayer, publicity and practical assistance, as appropriate.

Some of the key work in the past year has included:

- children's ministry and welcome to baptism and wedding families
- enhancing our partnership with the Pre School and Primary School in Shurdington
- maintaining the work of the Pastoral Group, which includes the established Bereavement Befrienders, in visiting the sick and bereaved and the All Souls Tide services of remembrance for those recently bereaved.
- providing a variety of worship throughout the seasons of the Christian year, establishing the benefit of holding Benefice services at the School, encouraging the participation of the Chapel at the latter
- the monitoring of information on 'A Church Near You' website and supporting our Incumbent who has set up a Facebook page for Greenway Benefice
- supporting the Benefice Choir, encouraging participation at evensong services at each Church, and new music
- establishing a Benefice Away-Day at Prinknash Abbey, designed to be an annual event
- giving thought to our Eco credentials
- engaging in 'Flourish' to establish how faith works into our everyday life, which we can then pass on through our discipleship role

PASTORAL CARE TEAM REPORT FOR 2019

The team met regularly during 2019. We are pleased that Robert Poole, Reader and Funerals Minister has joined our small group from each parish who help support the sick, bereaved, and carers.

Current members are now: Revd Susan Cooke, Robert Poole, Chris Nation, Sue Padfield, Clare Stewart, and Mary Tombs

Members hold communion services monthly at Atherton House and Badgeworth Court, and also visit individuals at home or resident in Chargrove Lawn. Visits are also made to residents in nursing homes outside the benefice.

Clare Stewart.

OUR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

ALL STARS

On behalf of the benefice, All Stars – a Christian after-school club – has continued to be run weekly in term-time at Shurdington Primary School for Reception and KS1 children (ie aged 4 to 7). Numbers vary in the different terms - from about 10 - 15 – but it is popular and offers those younger children (and their parents), who wish it, more on the Bible and the Christian faith. Sessions usually involve a story, often acted out, songs, prayer and a craft activity. Many of the children are very knowledgeable and insightful and will volunteer their own prayers willingly and thoughtfully.

OPEN THE BOOK

Shurdington Church of England Primary School Feedback from Pupils:

Why we Love Open the Book

How much do you love Open the Book?

- *I enjoy it because it's great*
- *Little kids get happy*
- *I like Open the book*

What were your favourite stories?

- *I like the Christmas story*
- *I liked it when I was in Year Three or Four when "Open the Book" did the Nativity*
- *I like the way Open the Book does assemblies about Jesus*
- *I liked the story when John wrote his book*
- *I liked it when Open the Book did the Easter story*



- *I liked it when they told stories about Moses*

Do you enjoy taking part?

- *I like the fun acting and stories*
- *They involve children who have a role*
- *They always let kids join in*
- *The school pupils can join in*

- *I like it. We get to join in*
- *I like it that you can be part of the action*
- *I like it that they use the pupils of the school*

What do you think of the way it's done?

- *I think Open the Book is very exciting, because you get to see what story they are going to act out*
- *I like how you bring Bible stories to life*
- *I like thinking about the story they are telling*
- *Their plays are really good and the way they explain the stories is good*
- *I like the plays and how they also explain the stories*
They are very helpful and kind

What does it mean to you?

- *I like thinking about the story they are telling*
- *I like it that they provide assemblies so we really understand how important our world and our value actually is; and why God and Jesus are so amazing.*
- *They help us learn the stories of Jesus*
- *Their stories are about God*
- *They are respecting God and Jesus*

ST MARY'S FAMILY SERVICE

An activity for children follows the monthly Family (All-age) service at St Mary's and is variously attended; sometimes activities in which children can participate are included in the service. The activity usually includes a Bible story and an associated craft activity.

FAMILY WORKSHOPS

Family workshops now run in Shurdington and Witcombe on a regular basis. Definitely 'messy', and with a bit of 'church'! Plus drinks and snacks! Topics have ranged from Easter to the Wise Men.

SAFEGUARDING

In the Greenway benefice, we aim to create an environment which is welcoming and respectful and which enables safeguarding concerns to be raised and responded to openly, promptly and consistently.

In order to assist with the creation of a safeguarding culture in the Greenway benefice, we comply with all the requirements of the diocesan safeguarding team.

We have a designated and experienced Safeguarding Officer, Rachel Cottell, who works with Rev Susan and the three PCCs. In the last year, the PSO has undertaken C2 Leadership training, led by the diocesan safeguarding team and Rev Susan has had clergy safeguarding training.

Each church displays the 'Promoting a Safer Church' safeguarding policy statement, which includes names and contact details of those who can help children and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is a standing item on all PCC agendas and the PSO regularly reports to the PCCs on safeguarding, and encourages all those on the PCCs or in positions of responsibility in the benefice to attend training.

Rachel Cottell

Mother's Union Report for 2019

We are a small group and will always welcome new members. We do have fun.

Our usual January service was led by Robert in the hall and was not a Eucharist as Ian was poorly.

In February, Robert kindly chaired our AGM.

Chris Nation was our home grown speaker in March, when we were very moved to hear her talk about all the children she, Brian and her parents have fostered over the years.

In April we celebrated Easter.

In May, Wendy Davies talked of her teaching career and how she came to work in the Lebanon.

In June, we had our Diocesan Chaplain, Rev. Katie Richardson telling us about her way to the ministry.

July was our annual tea party when we welcomed guests and raised money for AFIA and Diocesan funds.

September Rev. Ian led our Eucharist.

October was a report on the General Meeting in Portsmouth led by Averil and Josie....should have been me but I was in hospital.

In November, we, at long last, had Rev. Richard talking about his work in the cathedral...it was a third attempt! We welcomed visitors to this meeting.

December saw our Christmas entertainment with guests, lucky dip for all and usual Christmas food.

We have held Intercessions every month and would love for more to come along.

We have held coffee mornings for AFIA and Make a Mothers Day which is money for ethical gifts.

Altogether we have raised £800+ during the year.

Members have attended Members days, Lady day in the cathedral, Mary Sumner Day at Moreton in Marsh and Council meetings.

Some of us including two non member attended a very special evening at the Agricultural University, Cirencester with guest speaker, Lynne Tembey our retiring Worldwide President.

In the Deanery we have had Quiet day at Churcham and our branch led Midday Prayers in the Thomas Chapel in September.

The diocese has a new magazine editor and it is much improved. During December, Helen King raised money, being sponsored for a static rowing event. She raised around £1500 for AFIA. For those who don't know this is a MU project providing holidays for disadvantaged families. I am involved in this as I go to meet families with another trustee. It is a very humbling experience and the need is getting greater.

Helen has joined this year and I think there is another potential member from Badgeworth.

A good year but we are getting older and not so much energy!

MU is changing in many ways and is becoming a much more Worldwide organisation with our first WWP from abroad, Mrs Sheran Harpur from Guyana.

For me, MU has brought many friends from around the world and the work they do is amazing.

Kate Thompson

Ministry to Care Homes

Since August 2017, we have been holding a fortnightly church service in our two local care homes – Badgeworth Court and Chargrove Lawn.

The services follow a printed service devised by us in the benefice, with support from the diocesan dementia friendly churches team. Having used the same service for over two years, we have now carried out our first modifications and a reprint. The Praise service includes hymns, a familiar chorus, prayers, and a reading and reflection. Many services are multi-sensory to take into account the needs of residents and all services are dementia friendly.



At Badgeworth Court, the service is held in the main lounge, with around 15 residents coming regularly, supported by 2 members of the benefice congregation, whilst at Chargrove Lawn the service is much smaller with around 4 or 5 regulars, again supported by 2 or 3 members of the benefice congregation.

Although the printed service is the same in both settings, the services are very different in style, but very much valued by all who attend. At Badgeworth Court, communion is offered at one service a month.



The staff teams at both care homes value the regular visits of church members, with occasional requests for visits to residents in rooms or for end of life prayers, or for prayers with staff.

During this last year, we have been recorded on film as part of the Diocese of Gloucester's resources to develop dementia friendly churches.

Please go to

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/dementia-friendly-churches/>

Everyone is welcome to join us on the first or third Wednesday each month, 11.30am at Badgeworth Court and 2.30pm at Chargrove Lawn.

Rachel Cottell

Lay Worship Leader (Greenway benefice) and Community Dementia Link (Dementia Training & Education Strategy for Gloucestershire)

BENEFICE BIBLE STUDY

The Benefice Bible Study group has continued to meet on Monday afternoons throughout the year, the hospitality being graciously given by Averil Cole and, sometimes, Sarah Hargreave.

For the first part of the year we continued to study the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday, feeling that this helps us to gain a greater understanding of, and blessing from, them on the day.

For the second part of the year we followed a Bible Reading Fellowship study course. Our meetings always include time for prayer, which includes local as well as global needs. During Lent, however, the group became one of the Lent study groups and followed the Diocesan Shapes for Living Lent course, with sessions looking into Relating, Praying, Working, Playing and Growing within a Christian life.

We are very grateful to our hostesses and to all who contribute. The group is always delighted to welcome new members, so, if you are interested, why not give it a try!

Sue Padfield

DEANERY of SEVERN VALE SYNOD REPORT for 2019

The Deanery comprises 12 Benefices made up between them of 46 parishes with 47 churches.

Geographically the Deanery forms a large area from Mitcheldean in the Forest of Dean in the west to Preston in the north-west of the county, contains parishes on both sides of the Severn north of Gloucester, then incorporates a swathe of villages round the eastern side of Gloucester, with St Mary's at Great Witcombe its most south-easterly church.

Parish representatives:

Holy Trinity, Badgeworth:	Rachel Cottell, Hazel Cotton
St Paul's Shurdington:	Chris Langham
St Mary's, Witcombe w Bentham:	Sarah Hargreave, Sue Padfield.

Standing and Pastoral Committee:

Area Dean:	The Revd Simon Mason
Assistant area Deans:	The Revds John Longuet-Higgins, Jacqui Hyde
Lay Chairman:	Mrs Sue Padfield
Secretary:	Mr Robert Cook (until February), Mr Steve Riddick
Treasurer:	Mr Steve Riddick
Parish Share Officer:	Canon Roger Parker
Clergy member:	The Revd Jane Walden (until February)
Lay member:	Mrs Monica Richardson

The Standing and Pastoral committee meets between synods to plan and to hear reports on the benefices' progress and well-being and on finance.

Deanery Synod usually meets three times a year; meetings include reports from benefices, from the Parish Share Officer and from Diocesan and General Synods, updates on Diocesan initiatives, strategy and finance, and speakers on a wide variety of issues relevant to the Church of England. There are

opportunities to share good practice and advice and to learn from each other's strengths. Deanery Synod can propose motions for debate at Diocesan Synod, whose members are elected by Deanery Synod, and its members should convey information and opinion between Diocese and parish and vice versa. Deanery Synod also elects the Diocesan representatives for General Synod.

Synods during 2019: Topics at individual synods included:

Thursday, February 21st at St Andrew's, Churchdown:

Synod was very pleased to welcome Archdeacon Hilary who spoke on her Methodist upbringing, her education leading to studying theology, her initial work as a teacher and after ordination as a school chaplain, and her love of rural ministry which have led her to this new post in Gloucester.

There were short updates on the changing role of healing advisers and the A Rocha Eco-church scheme. The Revd John Longuet-Higgins (West of Severn) spoke to his paper on Leadership in Multi-parish ministries and his proposal to submit to Diocesan Synod a motion supporting inter-benefice collaboration so as to be effective missional communities. He asked that this be communicated to individual benefices.

Robert Cook was warmly thanked for his work as Synod secretary for a number of years as he moves away, as was Steve Riddick for his willingness to take on the role.

Wednesday, 26th June, at St Michael and All Angels, Tirley:

The Revd Mike Smith, in his capacity as Parish Giving Officer, gave a presentation on Stewardship, mainly focussed on the financial responsibilities of our roles as stewards of God's gifts. He drew attention to the Giving Toolbox on the Diocesan website and reminded us of the benefits of the Parish Giving Scheme.

The Revd John Longuet-Higgins followed up his previous presentation and, following discussion, a slightly amended motion was supported for submission to Diocesan Synod.

There were updates on the Chaplaincy Project at Newent School, on the training organised in and for the Deanery, on Parish Share and Diocesan Synod.

Tuesday, 22nd October, at Holy Innocents', Highnam.

Synod began with a brief description of Holy Innocents' Highnam from its Vicar, Helen Sammon. There were updates on benefice initiatives, including the new Children and Families Worker, appointed jointly to the benefices of Highnam and Leadon Vale, the participation of Greenway in the Flourish training course on discipleship, West of Severn's involvement in partners in Mission, the activities of PSALMS in the Deanery and the courtyard building project at St Andrew's. This was followed by a presentation on Parish Share, explaining the historical context and the present system for its calculation. Reports were received from the Treasurer, the Chairman of the House of Clergy and Diocesan Synod, and information on Training within the Deanery was presented.

Synod minutes and other information and reports can be found on the Deanery website, www.severnvaldeanery.co.uk, thanks for the upkeep of which are due to Hugh James from Mitcheldean.

Sue Padfield