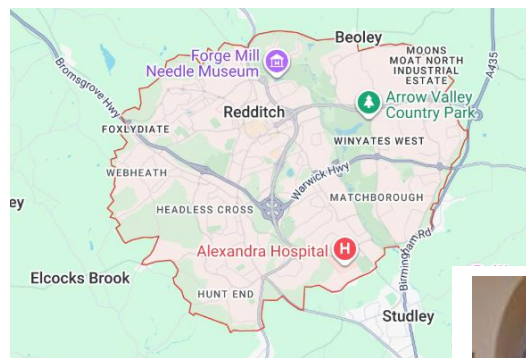




# Christ the King Benefice Redditch Area



## Profile for a House for Duty priest with responsibility for St. Peter's, Crabbs Cross, within the Redditch Mission Area





## A message from Bishop Hugh and Bishop Martin

**Thank you for your interest in this post. We hope this profile helps you in discerning your next steps, and if that leads you to the Diocese of Worcester, we would be delighted.**

For more than a thousand years, Christians across Worcestershire and Greater Dudley have prayed and worshipped, opened the Scriptures and received the Sacraments, served their communities and proclaimed the gospel. We have done this through plague, civil and world war, industrial revolution and dramatic social change. And today this deep and faith-filled history inspires us to ask – what does God need of us now and what might he be calling us to next?

And the words Kingdom People sum up our response to that call today.

- To be Kingdom People is to belong to parish churches, schools and worshipping communities that want to live ‘kingdom lives’, learning from Jesus and one another how to live with faith, hope and love.
- To be Kingdom People is to be deeply curious about where the Holy Spirit is working, within and far beyond the church, pointing people towards God’s holy and life-changing presence.
- To be Kingdom People is to know that God is close at hand, and that we are invited to join him in nurturing the love, compassion, justice and freedom that marks His rule and reign.

We want to be Kingdom People in the real world that we belong to, in all its beauty and all its mess. Rather than longing for a golden past or imagining a perfect future, we choose to meet reality with confidence, humility and hope, as communities of real people serving this real world.

We are therefore looking for priests who share that vision; who want, first of all, to be disciples of Jesus and who are building their lives on the solid foundation of his love and grace; who can build faithful and curious communities, working in partnership with people of every kind and background; who are committed to serving people and communities with humility and resilience.

And in all of that, because it is our priority of priorities, we need priests who will engage boldly and creatively with children and young people, their families and schools.

What we are not looking for is priests who are perfect, or who expect to do everything, thinking that it’s all on them. Our commitment to all our clergy and lay leaders is that we will help equip them effectively for the mission to which they’ve been called. Nor are we looking for priests who fit any particular mould – God has given diverse gifts to every kind of person, and we want to celebrate that diversity.

We know that priestly ministry brings great blessings but is also demanding and sometimes costly. We expect to be available when you need us and to support you practically and with prayer, investing in your ongoing development as a disciple and priest.

This comes in the hope that your discerning is rich and holy and that, if the Holy Spirit is stirring you to consider this role, you will do so.

God bless.

+ Hugh + Martin



**THE BISHOP of OSWESTRY**  
The Right Reverend Paul Thomas SSC



Dear Father,

**Concerning S. Peter's Crabbs Cross in the Diocese of Worcester**

The Parish of S. Peter's Crabbs Cross is brimming with potential. We are looking to appoint a priest who will take forward in various ways the work of making what is potential concrete and tangible. Are you such a priest as this?

The people of the parish are deeply faithful and friendly; they are naturally missional and evangelistic both in their warmth and welcome but also in their deep connectedness to the neighbourhood. S. Peter's is a *Parish* Church reflecting its neighbourhood and serving its neighbourhood. The people of S. Peter's also have a heart to see others who do not yet know Christ come to him in the light, warmth, and joy of his Church. Their faith is thoroughly and unselfconsciously catholic: they love the Lord Jesus in his Word and in his Body.

All of this means that the priest appointed to serve them under the House-for-Duty arrangements outlined in this profile must himself possess both these qualities: his heart must beat and burn for the work of evangelization, growth, and spiritual and numerical renewal; and he must be a priest whose whole priesthood is formed by a deeply catholic consciousness. He must be used to spending time with the Lord in the disciplines of the Church's prayer and in the fullness of her sacramental life.

S. Peter's receives ministry under the arrangements provided for in the House of Bishops' Declaration. The parish, according to the terms of that Declaration, has been placed under my sacramental and pastoral oversight. I am a hands-on Bishop who will want to work in close and fraternal relationship with the priest appointed, and will look for that priest to be an active, positive, and vivifying presence among my college of priests in the local Pastoral Region and the wider See of Oswestry, as well as a priest engaged and committed to the wider mission of the Deanery as well as the Diocese of Worcester.

I pray that you are stirred to apply for this exciting post. I greatly look forward to receiving your application and meeting you.

✠ Paul Oswestriensis

## From the Archdeacon of Dudley



### *From the Archdeacon of Dudley*

I am delighted you are considering a calling to this post, and would be glad to talk it through with you. The Christ the King benefice is one which celebrates diversity! Four very different churches in a new town, which work really well together, rejoicing in their theological breadth. We have worked hard to enable St Peter's to have a male House for Duty Priest, under the oversight of the Team Rector and supported by the Bishop of Oswestry. The parish is very much part of the benefice, and the other congregations respect their stance on the priestly ministry of women, wanting each tradition to thrive under the five guiding principles.

I always enjoy working with the congregation of St Peter's – they are open-minded, faith-filled, committed to their community and confident in their tradition. This will be a great role for someone wanting to immerse themselves into a parish and work collaboratively for mission, in a sacramental setting.

The benefice is part of our pioneering *Redditch Mission Area*, working collaboratively with others in the town and surrounding villages to maximise missional opportunities. The House for Duty priest will bring particular skills to the table and we hope will play a key part in strengthening that initiative, as well as engaging creatively with our wider diocesan priorities and vision.

The diocese is a great place in which to serve. We have a new diocesan bishop who works in collaboration with Bishop Paul, committed to further developing our vision and relational culture, and it feels to be a season of joyful momentum in which we balance commitment to growth with wellbeing. I do hope you will prayerfully consider applying for this role.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Nikki Groarke'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Nikki Groarke  
Archdeacon of Dudley  
Diocesan Leader for Transformation and Change

# Welcome to Christ the King Benefice

## Welcome to Christ the King Benefice

We hope to appoint a part-time **House for Duty priest** to join **St Peter's Crabbs Cross** and work with us as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in our community. We believe God is even now calling the right person to this exciting and important ministry and we pray for discernment as decisions are made.

If you are reading this you may have responded, however tentatively, to this call and we invite you to prayerfully read on and consider whether this is the right step for you.

In this document we aim to:

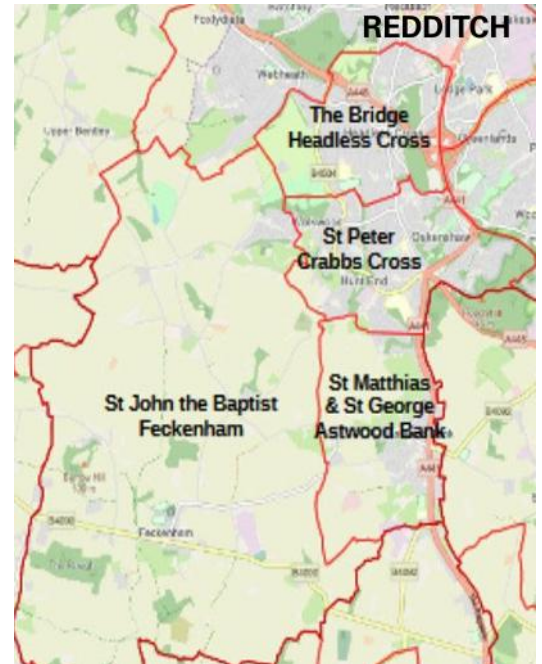
- say something about St Peter's and the benefice we are part of
- describe the communities we serve
- describe the activities within each parish and the benefice
- outline what hope our new priest will accomplish with us and for us, in leadership and action, and the sort of person we think they need to be.

We hope you find this profile interesting. You can find more information on the websites mentioned in the text.

The benefice is a team of **four** separate autonomous parishes. The original team of three parishes was formed in 2005 as a result of wider pastoral reorganisation in the Deanery, and until 2008 each parish had its own parish priest. Later, following diocesan reorganisation of deaneries, Feckenham Parish was added to the benefice. On the retirement of the former Team Rector in 2020, the Team Vicar, Rev. Glenn Reading - recently moved to a new benefice - took responsibility for all four parishes.

The four parishes are:

- **St. Peter's Crabbs Cross** – is a parish in an urban setting with Anglo-Catholic tradition, under the episcopal oversight of the Bishop of Oswestry. Population approx. 10,000.
- **St. Matthias and St. George** – is in the village of Astwood Bank. Population approx. 3,500.
- **St. John the Baptist, Feckenham** - is a rural parish with the village at its heart. Population: approx. 660 in the village and rural areas and 970 to the north of Feckenham comprising the Redditch housing development of Callow Hill.
- **The Bridge, Headless Cross and Southcrest, Redditch** – is in an urban setting. It is a single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership with the Methodist church based at the former St. Luke's Anglican Church. Population approx. 8,000.



The House for Duty priest will work under the oversight of a new team Rector for the benefice (also being recruited for.) The team Rector will have responsibility for the parishes of Astwood Bank, Feckenham and Headless Cross and will work in conjunction with SSMs, Methodist Presbyter and other lay ministers in ministry to the wider community.

The benefice's vision is to continue to meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of the communities we serve, to encourage and develop lay ministry in its many forms and continue to serve and develop our service to our communities. The benefice is keen to establish and support New Worshipping Communities and engage with the Redditch Mission Area.

## Redditch and its surroundings

Redditch is a combination of old and new. It is situated in North East Worcestershire, close to the borders of Warwickshire and Birmingham. It has an abundance of parks and woodlands, and a history that stretches back to the 12th Century, all set amid beautiful countryside and within easy reach of The Cotswolds, Shakespeare Country, the Severn Valley and the Welsh Borders.

It is world famous for the manufacture of needles and springs. This developed into other products, notably fishing hooks and motor components, including Royal Enfield motorcycles. The town retains this industrial heritage in its economy and architecture.

In 1964 Redditch was designated a New Town and has grown to its present population of 95,000. This resulted in large estates being built on the outskirts notably to the east. New homes were built in and around the established villages of Headless Cross, Crabbs Cross and Astwood Bank, all located along the ridge of land, along which runs the historic Evesham Road.

New industries have developed rapidly in recent years, thanks in part to Redditch's strategic location with excellent road and motorway connections.



The town has an excellent road system with good access to the M42, M40, M5 and M6/M1. Birmingham, Worcester, Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon are all within easy reach. A rail link to Birmingham provides access to main line routes and Birmingham International Airport is a short car journey along the M42. The town has an extensive bus service.



Across the Benefice there is a mixture of two and three tier education systems. Within the parishes are one C of E Primary School, one C of E First School, one C of E Middle School, a Catholic High School plus two county first schools and two county Middle schools.

The main Alexandra Hospital for Redditch is nearby.

Most of the shops in the town centre are within the modern Kingfisher Shopping Centre, although the old town character can be seen in the buildings of Church Green, where St.

Stephen's Church is located. The Heart of Worcestershire FE / HE College has a campus in the town centre.

Headless Cross and Astwood Bank both have a number of local shops, take-aways and public houses. Feckenham has a thriving community-run village shop and two pubs.



## We would like to welcome . . .

a Priest who:

- is faithful to St Peters' traditions and Eucharistic worship
- is passionate about encouraging spiritual development, supporting individuals on their faith journey, and equipping others for ministry and outreach
- has experience nurturing spiritual growth and encouraging discipleship
- is visible and accessible in both church and community settings, within agreed working hours and healthy boundaries, and has a heart for pastoral care
- is eager to help us develop innovative ways to reach and serve our local community
- is keen to engage with the wider benefice as appropriate, and the Redditch Mission Area



## What we offer you

St Peter's works as an individual parish but we also work collaboratively with other churches in the benefice, particularly around Christmas and Eastertide.

St Peter's offers Sunday Sung Eucharist, and weekly Said Eucharist (Thursdays) and Stations of the Cross (Fridays).

All three churches within the pastoral care of the Team Rector have strong connections with local schools in varying ways and seek to retain and enhance those connections.

We have participated in benefice-wide Lent and Advent courses which have been held in person during the daytime and repeated on-line in the evening.

We are a benefice with both strengths and weaknesses. All the parishes have an ageing congregation but with a realism to confront this issue and seek to be missional in outlook and welcoming to new members, to continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Community events are always popular and a significant number of the community regard the parish church as 'their church'.

We are at the advent of the establishment of the Redditch Mission Area, detailed later in this document. We look forward to all that this exciting project offers in support and involvement within the benefice in the years ahead.

St Peter's and all the parishes in the benefice have robust safeguarding policies in place, each with an appointed Safeguarding Officer.

## The ministry team

### Across the benefice:

#### Stipendiary clergy

- Part-time House for Duty priest (vacant) with responsibility for Crabbs Cross
- Team Rector (vacant) responsible for Astwood Bank, Feckenham and Headless Cross
- Shared ministry at The Bridge with Methodist minister, Rev Rachel Borgars (ministry commencing 1st September 2026)

## Non-Stipendiary

- Assistant Curate SSM (P/T) focussing on Feckenham and Astwood Bank - Rev Fiona Carter
- SSM Priest with PTO, focussing on The Bridge Church - Rev. Kay Dyer
- A Reader / LLM focussing on The Bridge
- Two Methodist Local Preachers based at The Bridge
- Four Authorised Lay Ministers, authorised for leading worship or pastoral care.
- The Bridge employs a part time administrator.

## Finances

Each Parish is responsible for their own finances, assets and Ministry Share. The Ministry Share has hitherto been equally shared between the parishes but under this new House for Duty arrangement for St. Peters, our Parish Share will be decided separately with discussion with the Bishop of Oswestry.

**All four parishes paid 2025 Ministry Share in full.**

The Bridge also pays annual Assessment to the Methodist Circuit, a similar amount to Ministry Share.

## Challenges

None of the churches have significant reserves in their General Fund although some churches have funds designated or reserved for specific purposes.

Astwood Bank	2024	2025
Designated	49,308	47,057
Restricted	549	574
General Fund	5971	5462
Movement		-2,735
Total	55,829	53,093

Feckenham	2024	2025
Designated	14,021	8,293
Restricted	93,145	101,056
General Fund	6,611	6,652
Movement		2,224
Total	113,777	116,001

Headless Cross	2024	2025
Designated	0	0
Restricted	8,499	9,572
General Fund	6,843	7,330
Movement		+ 1,560
Total	15,342	16,902

Crabbs Cross	2024	2025
Designated	4,490	6,950
Restricted	0	0
General Fund	9,034	14,121
Movement		7,547
Total	13,524	21,071

# Accommodation

## **The Vicarage, 16 Church Road, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6EH**

The property is a detached five bed house built in 1926 as a rectory and sits between one of the other churches of the benefice church and their church hall. There is a small front garden and larger rear garden.

The accommodation consists of a hall, living room, dining room, study, cloakroom, kitchen and utility area to the ground floor with a bathroom, shower room and five bedrooms to the first floor.



## About us:

### St. Peter's, Crabbs Cross



St Peter's is an Anglo-Catholic church and is a warm, faithful, and community-minded church rooted in its traditions and Eucharistic worship.

St Peter's offers a rhythm of prayer and sacrament that supports both regular worshippers and those who come seeking connection or comfort. With weekly Sung and Said Eucharists, Stations of the Cross and a rich pattern of seasonal services at Christmas and Easter, St Peter's aims to provide a spiritual home grounded in reverence, care, and continuity. St Peter's is a resolution church under the See of Oswestry.



The St Peter's church family is known for its hospitality, friendliness, and a sense of shared purpose. A resident organist and cantor enrich worship, and the congregation - which has grown in the last few years - prides itself on being welcoming, sociable, and outward-looking. Community links run deep, through links with local schools, uniformed organisations such as Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, and Rangers, and ongoing support for Redditch Foodbank. The recently refurbished guide hut, upgraded church roof and guttering, and improvements to the church hall - including a new kitchen - reflect a commitment to providing spaces that serve both church members and the wider community.



St Peter's also values longstanding traditions such as its annual Walsingham Pilgrimage, home communions for the housebound, and regular pastoral care. The church recognises challenges, including an ageing congregation, but with an engaged PCC and congregation it embraces opportunities with hope and creativity, particularly in outreach, social events, strengthened school relationships, and use of the hall as a community resource.

St Peter's is committed to continuing to share in joint events within the benefice.

Financially, St Peter's is supported by steady regular giving, fundraising, and hall hire.

We are a church shaped by devotion, community spirit, and a desire to welcome and serve. It stands as a place where tradition meets kindness, and where people of all ages can find fellowship, support, and a sense of belonging.

Further information can be found at:

[www.stpeterscrabbscross.co.uk](http://www.stpeterscrabbscross.co.uk)



# Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery

Redditch and Bromsgrove are significant urban centres in the Diocese. The Deanery as a whole serves over 140,000 people with 23 parish churches in areas of varying affluence and social dynamic in urban, suburban and rural contexts.

We seek to discern what we can do better together than individually and long for all the centres of worship across our area to be healthy sustainable fellowships living out their unique call to be Kingdom People.



The Deanery Chapter includes 19 licensed ministers and active ministers with permission to officiate. Chapter is a relaxed and supportive space where we share in fellowship and prayer and seek to support each other.

Deanery Synod meetings seek to fulfil the technical requirements but also to be a place where relationships are formed and where we can seek to communicate the diocesan vision and share in developing strategy locally and feeding back ideas and information. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we pray that the Deanery can be a source of support and resourcing for clergy and laity alike.

# Redditch Mission Area

**Facilitating | Enabling | Sharing**

**in God's Mission Across Greater Redditch**

The Christ the King Benefice is part of the Redditch Mission Area. The key function of the mission area is to support the 12 Parishes of Greater Redditch to be the healthy and sustainable churches God is calling them to be.



The small central team exists to provide practical support and enable work that crosses our parish boundaries. We also have funding for targeted work which furthers our diocesan aims to engage with children and families, support the development of new worshipping communities, work with lower income communities and collaborate with St Stephen's renewal church in Redditch town centre.

You can learn more about the vision and work of the RMA on our website [www.cofe-redditch.org.uk](http://www.cofe-redditch.org.uk)

We pray that we can all use our gifts to the mission of God across Redditch as we further our shared priorities and seek to be Kingdom People.

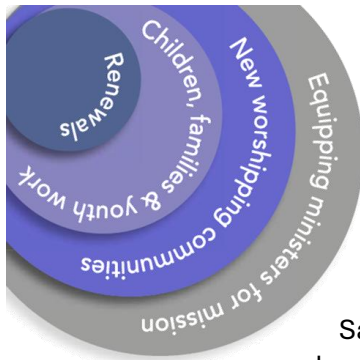


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Lawlor".

Paul Lawlor

Area Dean and Mission Area Leader

# Worcester Diocese



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF  
WORCESTER

The Diocese of Worcester covers an area of 671 square miles and includes parishes in Worcestershire, the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, and a few parishes in northern Gloucestershire, south-east Wolverhampton and Sandwell. It has around 170 parishes and 280 church buildings, together with 100 church schools. The diocese is divided into two archdeaconries, with six deaneries.

Our diocesan vision is to grow as kingdom people, sharing the good news of Jesus' love in Worcestershire and Dudley. As the body of Christ, we join together to worship God creatively, make disciples, share hope, and transform communities as we live out values of love, compassion, justice and freedom to bring about the kingdom of God on earth.

## Priorities 2023 – 2030

Over the next few years, we aim to:

- **Double** the number of children and young people worshipping in our churches.
- Create **100 new worshipping communities** offering a range of ways for people to come to faith and worship God. (eg Forest Church / Café Church / Walking Church).
- **Invest in the renewal** of around a dozen churches to ensure that each major area of population has at least one church with 150 people attending weekly, enabling them to support other local churches.
- Underpin these by investing in our clergy and lay leaders, providing **training and development** opportunities to enable them to grow and feel supported and equipped for mission.

**One size doesn't fit all** - we want to strengthen local churches and encourage and resource them to explore what it might mean to grow in health and sustainability in their context as they worship God, make disciples, share hope, and transform communities.

We share a vision for a church which enables its people to be:

- Deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures
- Renewed and transformed by regular worship
- Equipped to witness to the gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom
- Dedicated to helping children, young people and young adults to belong and be nurtured in faith
- Devoted to growing deeply in discipleship, offering our time and talents and money to God
- Resourced and released to minister to others
- Ready to engage with and serve our community
- Committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource.

