House for Duty Priest based in the Tarrant Valley, Milton and Blandford Deanery
**Introduction by the Bishop of Sherborne**

This newly shaped post offers an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to contribute their particular skills within a wider context.

The Chase Benefice, particularly the parishes of the Tarrant Valley, offers a mixture of rural and suburban ministry located alongside the town of Blandford Forum. We are looking for someone to occupy a House for Duty post for a limited period to work with colleagues to help bring about change within the deanery, reconfiguring ministry so it meets future needs, particularly around Sixpenny Handley and Blandford.

Being placed within a local team of clergy and lay leaders, which will include the Priests-in-Charge of Sixpenny Handley, Stourpaine, Pimperne and Durweston, and Blandford St Mary, Charlton Marshall and Spetisbury and local retired clergy, it is hoped that an interim House for Duty Priest will be able to work creatively to offer support to some of the more rural parishes and help reshape ministry around Blandford.

The villages enjoy beautiful rural countryside, yet are within easy reach of Blandford, Shaftesbury, Salisbury, Poole and Dorchester as well as the coast. Salisbury station (around 20 minutes away) offers rail connections to Exeter and London Waterloo or Bristol and Southampton.

Rural ministry in Dorset is both joyful and challenging, hence the need to build collaborative groupings of parishes to share resources, maintain well-being amongst lay and ordained leaders and realistically plan for the future. The diocese is fully supportive of honouring deanery planning within its five year plan and has, for the last three years, invested in supporting the rural church through its Rural Hope programme, enabled by national strategic development funding. The Archdeacon and I are fully supportive of the Milton and Blandford Deanery in making change and have both been actively involved with the consultation up to now; this support will continue.

Should you wish to know more about this post, please do not hesitate to contact the Archdeacon of Dorset, the Ven Antony MacRow-Wood (01202 695891) or the Rural Dean (01929 459244).

Bishop Karen
Introduction to the Deanery

The Milton and Blandford Deanery is in the Dorset Archdeaconry, part of the Sherborne Area of the Salisbury Diocese. The Deanery consists of thirty five Parishes formed into eight Benefices. It covers a large geographical area, although the actual population by comparison is small. Apart from Blandford Forum, a market town, the remaining parishes are rural.

The population of the Deanery is approximately 25,490 and growing due to significant new housing planned for in and around Blandford Forum. Within the Deanery there are: six C of E Primary Schools, 4 of which form the Blandford Hub of the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust (which includes the Benefice School). There is one maintained Secondary school, three Preparatory Schools and three Independent Schools (each with their own Chaplain.) One of the parochial clergy is the part-time Dorset Archdeaconry Rural Field Officer, which is combined with a Priest-in-Charge role. The Royal Corps of Signals is based at Blandford Camp and currently has two resident Chaplains.

Milton and Blandford Deanery is in the process of significant pastoral reorganisation, following extensive consultation. Lockdown has delayed consultation on the plan, which has been written by a Working Group of lay and ordained people and is based on seven stipendiary posts, and we are now working towards Deanery Synod agreeing the plan in January 2021. A major change in the deanery has come from the recent retirement of the Rector of the Chase Benefice of 10 parishes, who will not be replaced. Over the next three years it is proposed that the parishes of this benefice will be incorporated into adjoining benefices and this House for Duty post is to provide some ‘interim ministry’ to assist in the process.

Collaborative working and developing relationships between benefices lies at the heart of the proposed plan. This is augmented by shared ministry in key areas, and a focus on enabling education and skills sharing within the deanery, sharing good practice and developing our corporate life.

Deanery Maps
The role

This House for Duty post has been designed for a time limited period to help facilitate the transition and to assist with worship and pastoral care in the deanery. You will be licensed as Assistant Curate to the Chase Benefice, with the Rural Dean remaining the joint sequestrator with the churchwardens. The expectation is that you will work closely with Rev Justin Pottinger, the Rural Dean, Rev Belinda Marflitt, the Assistant Rural Dean, Canon Richard Hancock, the Rural Field Officer and Rev Carolyn Couzens, the Priest-in-Charge of the Lower Stour Benefice. You will not be expected to run the Chase Benefice as it was under the last incumbent. Instead, over the course of your tenure the benefice will evolve, with some parishes leaving and others developing new relationships with their intended benefices. At the end of the process, the Chase Benefice will cease to exist.

The post is predicated on you offering the equivalent of two days plus Sundays and will be for three years.

Your residence will be the Vicarage at Tarrant Hinton.

We are looking for someone who is:

- A team player and willing to work with colleagues in a collaborative way
- Someone who enjoys managing change and helping others to manage it too
- Committed to a changing church, the flourishing and development of lay ministry and exploring how traditional patterns of ministry can be reshaped
- Happy to be peripatetic, working in a range of parishes
- Flexible in leading a variety of service styles
- Good listening skills and pastoral sensitivity
- Content to fit in where needed
- Happy to be travelling around – lots of driving!

We are looking for a colleague to bring an extra “something” to the life of the Deanery during your season with us, to enrich the life of the Church here. We’re open to suggestions!

This post will suit someone who is able to give three years to ministry in a beautiful part of Dorset, bringing a range of expertise and who rejoices in meeting and working with diverse rural communities.

Expenses and Admin Support

All parishes pay into the Chase Benefice Expenses Account, which pays the administrator and covers expenses. There is also a Churchwardens’ Support Group which meets quarterly under normal circumstances. The Chase Benefice Administrator, Mrs Gill Baverstock, is reimbursed for working eight hours a week.

The Deanery Synod and Chapter

You will be part of the Deanery Clergy Chapter which includes incumbents, curates and associate clergy. We meet monthly to offer mutual support, encouragement and prayer to the clergy across
the Deanery. Our Deanery Vision statement is based around the Diocesan Vision: Renewing Hope - Pray, Serve, Grow. Within the Deanery we seek to do this through: Sharing our Gifts; Sharing our Faith Stories & Sharing Good Practice in order to renew and resource one another as the Body of Christ.

As part of the diocesan link with the Sudan and South Sudan, the Deanery is linked with Rokon Diocese in South Sudan and we enjoy a close relationship with Bishop Francis Loyo, who has visited the deanery within the last year.

**The Rural Dean**

The Rev Justin Pottinger is Vicar of the Red Post Benefice, in the south of the Deanery. Justin is dedicated to growing the church by empowering people to explore their discipleship and take up mutual responsibility for the life of the Church. He has been part of the Chapter for nine years, having been the Chaplain and Head of Religious Studies at Clayesmore School, prior to taking up his current post. Justin is also Prior of the Benedictine Companions of the Abbey at Milton, a dispersed community centred around the former Abbey at Milton Abbas. The Red Post Benefice of currently five parishes is actively working with an additional parish which, under the proposed Deanery Pastoral Plan, will be added to the benefice.

**The Assistant Rural Dean and Lay Chair**

The Assistant Rural Dean is The Rev Belinda Marflitt, the Deanery Schools Missioner and Rector of Pimperne, Durweston and Stourpaine. The Lay Chair is Mr Dan Roberts, who is the Foundation Governance and Academy Trust Advisor for the Diocesan Board of Education.

Belinda, Dan and Justin meet monthly to reflect on the life of the Deanery and to model the collaborative working we want to see building throughout the deanery.
The Rectory lies in a quiet spot up a lane off the main street in Tarrant Hinton and is adjacent to the church. The property is a pleasant, spacious and well-built four-bedroomed detached house, with ample parking for several vehicles. The grounds are currently laid to lawn with some mature trees and shrubs and there is a small patio area leading off the living room.

The property has been well-maintained throughout. The entrance door leads into a porch area, then a hallway, with stairs to the first floor and doors leading to a large living room, accommodating both sitting and dining areas, a smaller reception room, a downstairs toilet and a kitchen with room for a table.

The kitchen has a large utility area leading off it. A study with both internal and external access doors was added to the ground floor about 20 years ago.

Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, all of which can accommodate a double bed, and a family bathroom, with separate WC.

The property also has a single garage and the benefit of oil-fired central heating, double glazing and very good broadband access. There is a small shed in the garden.
Tarrant Hinton Village Hall hosts a number of classes and clubs, as does the village hall at Tarrant Gunville, which is just up the Valley Road. Over the other side of the A354 lie the villages of the lower Tarrant Valley and there is a long tradition of all the Tarrant Valley parishes socialising together. Pubs can be found at Tarrant Monkton (The Langton Arms) and Tarrant Keyneston (True Lovers Knot), as well as at Farnham (The Museum Inn) and Gussage All Saints (The Drovers’ Inn).

The world famous **Great Dorset Steam Fair** takes place just outside Tarrant Hinton at the end of August each year and there is plenty of opportunity to be involved with the ‘Church Tent’ organised by the Diocese.

There are GP surgeries at Blandford and Sixpenny Handley and a Post Office in Blandford. A fish and chip van stops in the village on Wednesday evenings.

The Georgian town of Blandford Forum comprises several independent shops as well as M&S Food, Lidl, Morrisons and Tesco. There are a couple of farm shops in the Tarrant Valley and a Waitrose supermarket in Wimborne Minster.

The main A354 Salisbury to Blandford road is a short distance away and from there the towns of Blandford Forum, Wimborne Minster, Poole and Salisbury can easily be accessed by car. Buses run along the A354 from Salisbury to Blandford, stopping in Tarrant Hinton a couple of times a day Monday to Saturday. There are railway stations at Poole and Salisbury.

The A354 leads south-west to Weymouth and the Jurassic coast; Poole Harbour and Bournemouth beaches are a 40-minute drive to the south; the New Forest National Park is just a half hour’s drive away.
**The Chase Benefice**

The Chase Benefice was formed in 1999 by combining two smaller benefices. It covers 12 parishes with 10 churches across an area of north and east Dorset and a corner of Wiltshire. It is part of the Milton & Blandford Deanery within the Archdeaconry of Dorset.

The nine Ecclesiastical parishes were:

- Chettle
- Farnham
- Gussage All Saints
- Gussage St Michael
- Tarrant Gunville
- Tarrant Hinton
- Tarrant Keyneston with Tarrant Crawford
- Tarrant Monkton with Tarrant Launceston and Tarrant Rushton with Tarrant Rawston
- Tollard Royal

In addition, the church of St Mary’s Tarrant Crawford, which is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust holds a monthly service in the summer months and Tarrant Rawston church, although now in private ownership, periodically hosts a benefice service.

The parishes work well together after 20 years of combination. The retiring rector always encouraged self-sufficiency and interdependence. In consequence, there is a strong tradition of lay involvement, with a Benefice Council as well as individual PCCs. PCCs are customarily led by a Lay Chair, with the rector chairing APCMs. The service rota is managed by the staff team of ordained and lay ministers, served by the benefice administrator.

The current services rota shows the pattern of worship which was in place pre-lockdown. Retired priests have supported eucharistic services as appropriate, while lay worship leadership – either by LLMs or other church members – is increasing. Many parishes still prefer BCP, although Common Worship models are also in use. The benefice has adopted the Common Worship lectionary.

Attendance is relatively small, and predominantly elderly. We have developed a very successful model of Fifth Sunday worship when the benefice comes together in one church and, led by the Benefice Choir, participates in a fully-fledged service. These congregations can exceed 50 worshippers.

The individual parish profiles offer a clear and detailed picture of varied church life across the benefice. In addition, some common activities include:
The Pastoral Support Group, which meets monthly;
The annual Sudan Fair in support of our diocesan African mission.

There are two monthly magazines: the Chase Magazine for the Gussages, Chettle, Farnham and Tarrant Royal, which is delivered free of charge to each home; and the Tarrant Times for the Tarrant Valley parishes. There is also a website [http://www.chasebeneficedorset.org.uk/](http://www.chasebeneficedorset.org.uk/)

Sadly, there are no schools within the benefice, so children and young people travel by bus to schools in either the Blandford or Wimborne pyramids, with some attending the local independent schools.

By the time a successful applicant arrives, the parishes of Gussage All Saints and Gussage St Michael will have moved into a neighbouring benefice in Wimborne Deanery and the Revd Carolyn Couzens, Priest-in-Charge of the Lower Stour is likely to have assumed responsibility for Tarrant Keyneston with Tarrant Crawford. We anticipate Tollard Royal, Farnham and Chettle will move into a neighbouring benefice within two years.

In conclusion, the Chase Benefice, characterised by small but self-reliant worshipping communities, is well placed to receive the gifts of a part-time interim minister who enjoys facilitating change.
St Peter ad Vincula Church is a beautiful late 13th Century place of worship surrounded by glorious countryside. Until the recent lockdown, three services each month were held at St Peter’s: one Morning Prayer, one Evensong and one Holy Communion. Currently these services are based mostly on the Book of Common Prayer, with special service sheets for festivals, baptisms etc, but the congregation is open to trying different styles. The small, but loyal, congregation is increased greatly and joyfully at the Festivals of Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter and Rogation and with our good organist, singing is an important part of our worship. There are two churchwardens and a conscientious and supportive PCC. The flower ladies do a wonderful job decorating and cleaning the Church during the year, excelling themselves at Festivals when they receive help from willing volunteers. The Bell Ringing Group has recently recruited and trained two young ringers and we are currently training two adults. Visitors from all over the world write of the peace, beauty, and tranquillity they encounter inside the Church.

Our Church is a popular place for weddings with local couples, and some from further away with connections with the village. The Larmer Tree Gardens close by are a popular venue for weddings and couples sometimes ask for permission to have their wedding in the Church. The availability for rent of King John’s House, next to the church is a great bonus for wedding parties.

The Rushmore Estate owns the Old Cart Shed, which is used for fundraising events for the Church and also for the village’s regular social events. Our popular Rogation Service is usually held there near our Village Pond and often with the Choir from nearby Sandroyd School.

Tollard Royal is a small village of just over 100 people plus a few second homeowners, giving a rough total of 110. The village is a friendly place with a great community spirit. The King John Inn has been part of the village for many years and offers both accommodation and first-class food. The old telephone box has been converted to hold a defibrillator, books to share and maps of the village for the many walkers who visit. In 2017, the village won the Best Kept Village Award. There is a strong Parish Council and a very enthusiastic Village Social Committee, arranging a variety of events every month. We have a village website www.tollardroyal.com. In addition to the Benefice magazine there is a monthly online village newsletter, The Tollard Tattler, to which all are encouraged to contribute. There are notice boards by the pond and in the church porch. A Village War Memorial commemorates those killed in The Great War, and Remembrance Sunday is always observed both at the memorial and in the church.

Whilst being only small, Tollard Royal is an active, friendly and welcoming place, and St Peter’s is an important part of our community life.
Chettle

The Parish of Chettle is a small, very rural village. It has been owned by the Castleman family and their descendants for several hundred years. However, as often happens, one member of the family sold the big house and some of the estate recently. We now have wonderful neighbours in Tom and Rosamond Sweet-Escott, who have restored the house, garden and parkland. The remainder of the village (houses and farmland) continues to be owned by Alice Favre, a descendant of the Bourke family. The church is very well supported by both the Sweet-Escotts and Alice Favre.

The Village has approximately 70 residents, including many children. In normal times there is a small but regular congregation, which on high-days increases to about half the village.

For many years we had our own vicar, since the Advowson is owned by the proprietor of Chettle House, but since the demise of the last incumbent this has not been possible.

The Church is dedicated to St Mary. Excluding the Norman Tower, it was rebuilt during Victorian times by the Castleman family. This was carried out without the required faculty, and they were fined a very substantial sum, notwithstanding the fact that they had paid for the rebuilding! The church clock has recently undergone a conversion to automatic winding, carried out with the appropriate faculty, and the clock face was restored.

Our Services follow the 1662 version of the Prayer Book, as has been the tradition. For years there has been a village rota to clean and decorate the church and more recently an occasional work party to tidy up the churchyard.

Chettle usually has a large Village Fete, often resulting in generous donations to Chettle PCC. We are very fortunate to be fully paid up on our payments for Share, additionally helped by regular giving by standing order. Thus we trust we may be able to continue to meet our commitments, although in such a small community there can be no certainty.
Farnham

Farnham is a village of some 100 properties in the Cranborne Chase area of North Dorset. The main part of the village lies in the valley with small settlements of Farnham Newtown and Elham Court on the peripheral of the parish. The village is on the Pitt-Rivers’ Rushmore Estate and some properties are rented from the estate, whilst a handful are holiday/weekend homes. In 2011, the census recorded the population as 183. The large majority of the population is over 50 and there are about a dozen young people.

The Church of St Laurence dates back to the 12th Century and benefited from Victorian refurbishment, when a north transept was added. The one external door leads from the porch which is also the bell tower, accommodating two bells which are set to chime. Although cosy in appearance, the church is surprisingly spacious. Currently, the PCC is focusing on completing minor works to the fabric of the building prior to embarking on a project to fully investigate the feasibility of installing a toilet and kitchenette. The churchyard is maintained according to our wildlife management scheme.

The church has two churchwardens. Although small in number, the PCC members listen closely to the views of churchgoers and parishioners, many of whom support the church in a number of ways, including fundraising for the grade 2* building which is considered by the community to be a vital part of the local landscape. The main annual church fundraising events are the Open Gardens and Farnham Street Fair, held in alternate years, and supported well by the village. The PCC supports two local charities financially through church collections at Christmas and Harvest and further donations from PCC funds.

Attendance at regular services ranges from 4 to 22, with higher numbers for the Carol Service and Christmas Day Family Service, the latter regularly having a congregation of 50 plus. There is still a desire for the BCP services of 9am Holy Communion and 6pm Evensong, mainly attended by older residents, but the monthly, more informal Family Service attracts the larger congregation, including one or two young people. As we have no organist, the congregations have become accustomed to singing to a recorded accompaniment.

An Animal Service is held in July. Harvest Festival is usually at the beginning of October, followed by a shared meal in the church after the service. Remembrance Sunday service is held in the church, as this is where the war memorial is located.

The village has allotments which provide a social focus, as does the Museum Inn. Since the village has no community hall, book clubs, sewing and gardening groups are hosted in larger homes. The church has a strong pastoral ethos and members make a point of connecting with parishioners who are in need. As part of social outreach, the church runs First Tuesday Coffee Mornings, which are held in parishioners’ homes and charity quiz evenings in the Museum Inn.
St Mary’s Church sits adjacent to Gunville Manor. The present flint and stone church is Victorian (Early Norman evidence), with a painted chancel, and can seat between 100 and 200 people. It has a kitchen facility and toilet; and a new, effective heating system, for which money is already available, will be installed as soon as the faculty is approved.

Tarrant Gunville PCC is a loyal and supportive group whose aspiration is to give Christian support within the church building for the rites of passage as well as provision for at least two Services a month; and to combine with the neighbouring village of Tarrant Hinton alternately providing a bimonthly Breakfast Service in each other’s village hall. The attendance is usually between 10 and 20 people. There is a small Bible Study group which hopes to meet every fortnight.

Church Festivals are well attended by the wider village community: Easter, Harvest Festival, Christmas Carol Service, Christmas Day. Remembrance Sunday is celebrated within the church, connecting with the memorial inside, and also attended by the villagers of Tarrant Hinton.

The village community are involved in the cleaning/flower rota as well as occasional churchyard upkeep days. The Church Fete is a highlight of the year with the whole Village supporting and enjoying the occasion; this provides vital fundraising for the Church and for village activities. The Church runs a bimonthly coffee morning in the Village hall, alternating with the WI. There is also a volunteer drivers’ group initiated by the church.

Financially, the PCC is in a reasonable position; however, a Quinquennial inspection is due shortly which will require attention.
Tarrant Hinton is one of the eight Tarrant villages, which lie on the route of the Tarrant river. Tarrant Hinton comprises some 80 households, 3 Farms, three small industrial/commercial unit sites, a village hall and, of course, our Church: St. Mary’s.

Once a year Tarrant Hinton accommodates the Great Dorset Steam Fair – one of the largest in Europe, attracting some 200,000 visitors. Thus, for some two weeks a year our village goes from being one of the smallest populations in Dorset to one of some significance.

Our Village Hall was rebuilt in 2012, largely funded by the community and is well used for various community events and classes, including meetings of the Parish Council, Short Mat Bowls Club, Community Lunch Group, Keep Fit and Yoga Classes.

Housing in the village is mainly owner occupied, with some Housing Association and private rentals, and one weekend home. Many of the approximately 200 residents are over retirement age with some 25% who are working age. There are approximately 25 under 18’s, who are schooled at Pimperne, Witchampton, Blandford, Clayesmore or Bryanston. There is a healthy, inclusive community spirit within the village.

St Mary’s Church records show baptisms in the church from 1545; it is believed to have been built in the late 1200’s with a preaching stone thought to predate the church and three bells. Our Easter Sepulchre, which recently underwent restoration, is one of less than 30 surviving examples in England and Wales. As well as our normal services we also celebrate the Festival Services, and a special Rite at our Easter Service, making use of the Easter Sepulchre.

The church has some 18 parishioners on its electoral roll, with regular attendances of between 10 and 15. With two clergy led services per month of Family Communion and 9am BCP Holy Communion, we also have a lay led service in the church – Hinton’s Half Hour. Together with our neighbours, Tarrant Gunville we share in a lay led Breakfast Church, alternating monthly, held in the village halls, which welcomes attendees from up and down the Tarrant Valley and beyond. Our church also participates in the annual Ride and Stride sponsored event for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust.

Tarrant Monkton with Tarrant Launceston
Tarrant Monkton and Tarrant Launceston lie in the centre of the Tarrant Valley, with two working churches to the north and two to the south. The centrality of All Saints could be used more to its advantage, as is shown by the attendance we attract for Christmas Midnight Mass. Officially Blandford Camp is part of the Parish but in reality there is no attendance from the Camp apart from the very occasional wedding.

There are two services a month: Holy Communion on the second Sunday and Worship for All on the fourth Sunday. We combine with Tarrant Rushton, with whom we have a joint PCC, for Mothering Sunday and Rogation Sunday. On average 8 to 10 attend Communion and 10 to 15 Worship for All. In contrast our Carol Service and Midnight Mass are extremely well attended, on average by 90 people. The children often play a part in the Carol Service. The Easter service always attracts a congregation of 40 or so each year.

The church holds a Harvest lunch in the Village Hall when a local farmer is invited to give a talk. Baptisms, weddings and funerals occur from time to time. Lent courses and Bible study take place within the valley shared with all five churches. The five churches within the Tarrant Valley support one another in many different ways and almost operate as one big village.

In common with all churches at present, attendance at regular services is not huge. However Outreach and Mission are fulfilled by the organisation of annual events, all of which bring the village together and have become part of village life. During July and August every Sunday, Cream Teas are held in the Village Hall, run by different teams of people every week. This has been enormously successful not just as a fundraiser but has really brought people together who otherwise are not in close contact with each other. It has been a hugely successful initiative thanks to one PCC member and has raised almost £27,000 over the years for church funds.

An Annual Dog Show is held in April, again by a PCC member and is met with the same success. Three Winter Warmer talks are held in the church annually, organised by another PCC member and this keeps the church “relevant” during the winter months. Childrens’ parties and treasure hunts have been organised to
try and demystify “church” for the younger people. Other fund raisers are held from time to time. Recently a concert in the church, performed by villagers, was organised by a non-church member who, like many, value having a “church” in the village and wish to support it. A sponsored sleep-over in the church was another successful fundraiser.

There is no official LPA representing All Saints. This work is undertaken and shared by the PCC. Fortunately the village is small enough that we hear of those who are unwell or in need of help.

Both churchgoers and non-churchgoers are on a rota for keeping the graveyard tidy and also an annual tidy up in the spring. The flower rota and church cleaning rota also include people who are not regular churchgoers. When the PCC decided to host a thank you drink for all who help the church in some way but were not regular churchgoers, we realised it included many more people than we had originally envisaged and concluded that there is much goodwill and support for our Church within the village. It was very heartening.

The church supports other village activities arranged by individuals for different charities and the village hall funds. This includes quizzes; an annual curry lunch at Remembrance for Army charities; an annual cross-country race, the TV10, a village flower show and a plant sale. Within the Benefice all the churches strive to support one another.

Recently it became known that the Village Hall was in need of repair. The committee received quotes for a new Village Hall and raised a large amount of money; however it wasn’t sufficient. The PCC considered the possibility of the church being used as a Village Hall as well as a place of worship, and, following various meetings of those involved, the village decided to support both the church and the Village Hall.

The PCC is now planning significant improvements to the church, including the fitting of a water supply which will serve a new kitchen and toilet facilities. This exciting and new development is targeted to better enable the church to support the activities that are currently held there, and for future plans.
The villages of Tarrant Rushton and Tarrant Rawston sit alongside the River Tarrant, at the south end of the valley, with the villages effectively bordering the now disused Tarrant Rushton Airfield, which was constructed in the early 1941/1942.

Rushton has a population of circa 120, and is served by St Mary’s church, which sits at the north end of the village. Rawston has a population of 50. It has a redundant church, which is in private ownership, but is still utilised for the occasional special service, with prior permission of the owners.

Tarrant Rushton has a joint PCC with Tarrant Monkton, and also works closely with All Saints, Tarrant Keyneston, which sits at the southern tip of the valley. Tarrant Rushton and Tarrant Keyneston hold a joint monthly service, which is proving very popular with their congregations.

This process of cooperation, and working together, is proving of great importance, and would be considered as an integral part of future worship, in the South Tarrant Valley, as we enter an uncertain period of an interregnum, alongside emerging from a period of lockdown.
Tarrant Keyneston with Tarrant Crawford

Our beautiful church dedicated to All Saints was built in 1852 and has a 15th century tower. It had a major refurbishment in 2016, when we installed a toilet and a kitchen. The ceiling was redecorated and carpets were fitted. It is a warm and welcoming place of worship. We have a bell ringing group who practise every week and ring at every service. Although we have a working organ, we do not have an organist, however we have installed a good music system which works well. The flower group provide displays for all services and their arrangements are particularly beautiful during Easter week. We have an excellent PCC who meet regularly to discuss the life of the church. Our treasurer is very experienced and ensures that our financial management is of a high standard. Our day to day finances are stable and we have a legacy left to us by Anne Biddlecombe which can be used to ensure that the church is maintained in good condition.  

Our village is totally residential and is the largest in the Tarrants. The population is predominantly elderly although recently there have been younger families moving in. We have a lovely village hall where secular and church activities take place.

We have two services per month: a communion service which is led by a minister from the Benefice and a lay led service led by Grahame Webb who is the churchwarden. This is a joint service with Tarrant Rushton and takes place in each other’s churches on alternate months. Numbers vary between 10 and 15 people attending the communion service and between 15 and 20 attending the lay led service. We organise special services for Harvest, Remembrance, Easter and Christmas which are well attended.

There is spiritual growth and the congregation enjoy the blend of traditional and modern worship. Most importantly they appreciate the fellowship and feeling of being involved in the life of the Church.
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant Monkton with Tarrant Launceston</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3,038</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant Rushton with Tarrant Rawston</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,881</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tollard Royal</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3,038</td>
<td>8</td>
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</table>
### Usual Pattern of Services at January 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>First Sunday</th>
<th>Second Sunday</th>
<th>Third Sunday</th>
<th>Fourth Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tollard Royal</td>
<td>No service</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>18:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chettle</td>
<td>No service</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>No service</td>
<td>10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farnham</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Family Service</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>No service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gussage St Michael</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Breakfast Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gussage All Saints</td>
<td>4:00 /6:00</td>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>No service</td>
<td>10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant Gunville</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Family Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant Hinton</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Hinton Half Hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant Monkton</td>
<td>No service</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>No service</td>
<td>10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant Rushton</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>No service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant Keyneston</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>No service</td>
<td>No service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant Crawford</td>
<td>No service</td>
<td>No service</td>
<td>No service</td>
<td>10:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May to Sept