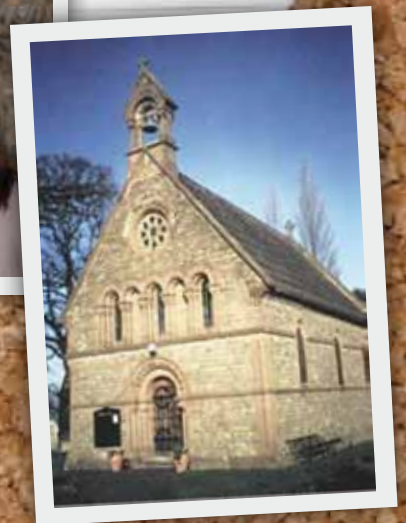


Kidderminster Parish Church  
Team Ministry

# Wanted vicar in the Team

With pastoral responsibility for  
Holy Trinity, Trimpley  
and St. Barnabas', Franche



# Background

## Kidderminster

Kidderminster is a town of about 56,000 people within the Wyre Forest District in North Worcestershire. To the east lies the great West Midlands conurbation with the picturesque Georgian towns of Bewdley and Stourport and glorious countryside to the west. Worcester city and cathedral are about 15 miles to the south and there are direct rail links to Birmingham, Worcester and London. Although Kidderminster's prosperity was built around the carpet industry it is now becoming a significant retail centre.

Faith at work in Worcestershire (FWW) began with chaplaincy to the carpet industry in Kidderminster in the 1960's and the relationship between FWW and the Parish Team Ministry has always been close. The Severn Valley Railway and West Midlands Safari Park in Bewdley attract many thousands of visitors every year.

## The Team Parish

The Benefice and Parish of Kidderminster St Mary and All Saint's with Trimpley, Broadwaters, Franche and Upper Arley is a well established team which recognises both the diversity which exists within the Team Parish and the need to work closely together. To help develop a sense of unity, two Parish Wardens are elected, whose primary brief is to help co-ordinate activity across the Team Parish and to encourage trust and co-operation.

The five congregations meet several times a year for united worship and we work together on confirmation preparation, shared harvest time projects e.g. Farm Africa, 'Send a Cow' and Oxfam's "Build a bog". The whole team are usually encouraged to take part in any Study programmes and 'away days'.

The present staff, together with the Rev. Mary Austin, the Methodist Superintendent, are committed to saying Morning Prayer together and to sharing in the Eucharist on Friday mornings at 8.00 a.m. Both Owain Bell (the Team Rector) and Rose Lawley (Team Vicar) are Associate Methodist Ministers, reflecting the close working relationship between the Team and the Methodist Circuit.

Whilst the five church communities within the Team are encouraged to develop their individual strengths and styles, the Parochial Church Council attempts to promote overall strategies in key areas, e.g. public worship, pastoral care and training.

A team finance committee coordinates our response to the financial challenges we face. We have recently completed a stewardship appeal designed to meet those challenges and the initial response appears encouraging.

Admission to communion before confirmation: permission has been given by the Bishop and a number of children have been admitted.

## Team Structure

Each of the five churches has two Churchwardens and a District Church Council, to whom responsibility for the fabric, fixtures, fittings and finances are assigned, together with pastoral and evangelistic responsibilities (Church wardens across the team meet regularly for mutual support and encouragement). Three lay representatives from each DCC are elected to serve on the PCC. Our Team Parish Secretary, Barbara Downer, works at the Parish Office located at St Mary and All Saint's Church, co-ordinates data across the Team and gives secretarial support as appropriate. Mike Hickman and Mariea Janke work with her as volunteer administrators.

The Team is on the web at [www.kpctm.com/stm/clergy.php](http://www.kpctm.com/stm/clergy.php) but the site is currently in the process of being updated.

## Staffing

**The Team Rector, The Reverend Canon D.Owain Bell** (who is also Vicar of Kidderminster with responsibilities for the town) has pastoral responsibility for St. Mary and All Saints and for St Peter's, Upper Arley. Owain also chairs a local Community Partnership Assembly, is chair of the Faith at Work in Worcestershire Management Committee and is actively involved in Inter-Faith work.

**The Reverend Rose Lawley** joined us nearly 3 years ago and is responsible for St. Oswalds. She is the Work Place Chaplain for Kidderminster and Wyre Forest pioneering Retail Chaplaincy in the Town Centre. Rose is also Chaplain to Kidderminster College.

**The Reverend Katharine Green** is our Curate in Training. She was Ordained Priest last Pentecost and is very actively involved with 'Cafe Church', 'Messy Church' (two projects undertaken with the Methodist Church) and with 'Odd Sox' a group for young adults.



The stipendary clergy work very happily together, covering for each other and supporting each other.

The Team also benefits from the work of two retired clergy; the **Reverend Canon Jim Samuel** and the **Reverend Canon Stephen Hutchinson** who are enormously generous in their support and encouragement. We have a Reader in training, Ian Strongman, plus a Reader, **Sue Bullock**, who has joined us from the North of England and is renewing her licence, together with **Sue Amer** another Reader who works across the Deanery but is based within the Team. **Sarah Brush**, the Diocesan Youth Officer, who lives in Kidderminster is also an honorary member of staff and co-ordinating Chaplain for Wolverley C.of E. High School. In addition there are 20 lay eucharistic assistants across the Parish with another 12 presently undertaking training for authorised lay ministry.

# The Parish

## Introducing our 5 Churches

**St Mary's:** Said to be the largest church in Worcestershire. St Mary's has strong civic and town connections and is the location for our Team Parish Office. In recent years St. Mary's has been attracting increasing numbers of visitors.

**St Peter's Upper Arley:** Originally built in the 12th Century and with a recently completed extension with toilet and kitchen. Upper Arley is a traditional estate village on the banks of the river Severn, with pub, post office and school. The railway station (Severn Valley railway) has featured in many films.

**St Oswald's, Broadwaters:** Serving the Broadwaters district, an area to the north of the town with significant areas of deprivation. The congregation has been meeting in the Church Centre, formerly the church hall, since the 1980's, when the newly built church had to be demolished. The church seats 100 people and serves both as a community hall and worship centre and is in an exciting Covenant Partnership with Broadwaters Methodist Church.



**Holy Trinity Trimley:** The church is a small gem consecrated on the 2nd August 1844 on the probable site of a medieval Chantry Chapel. It was built in a neo-Norman style by Worcester architect Harvey Eginton. An almost identical building is to be found in South Africa. Holy Trinity, once a chapel of ease for St. Marys serves a scattered rural community on high ground affording fabulous views towards the Black Country to the East and the Welsh borders to the West.

Although large enough to hold about 90 people the present loyal congregation is very small. In recent years, sadly, we have lost a number of members who have either died or moved away but we have been able to maintain weekly worship. The Church is licensed for weddings.

The tradition of 'Blessing of the plough' is kept in January and Rogation Sunday, in May, is important too with Harvest having an important place in the Village calendar. The Community Hall close by is well used and lively.

**St Barnabas:** On the 10th June 1871, St. Barnabas Church was consecrated by the Bishop of Worcester; it was intended mainly as a Chapel of Ease for the workers in the great houses of Franche, their employers travelling by carriage to the Parish Church of St. Mary and All Saints. A school was established beside the church soon afterwards, and until 2007 these two buildings were considered central to the community of Franche. The significance of school and church together is reflected in a glorious way in the beautiful window sponsored by the school children, past and present and members of the community, when, under an educational review, the school was closed.



Despite its position on the northern outskirts of Kidderminster, there is still the sense of a village community with a village club and public house, two primary schools and three pre school nurseries, a supermarket, chemist and post office all serving three large areas of local authority and private housing.

St Barnabas has a relatively small congregation with 66 on the electoral roll; although the more regular attendees are 55 years or over, a small group of families attend monthly Family Eucharist together with a group of very willing and enthusiastic teenagers who have planned and lead Youth Mass and services for local radio and at Greenbelt. There are well supported services during the year particularly at Christmas and Epiphany, on Education and Mothering Sundays, and an Easter workshop for children is always very popular. Welcoming services before baptism take place during the Family Eucharist and the bereaved are invited to memorial services held quarterly throughout the year. The congregation is exceptional welcoming and friendly and eager to enhance the profile of the Christian community in Franche.

The main act of worship on Sunday is the Eucharist at 10.30 at which vestments are worn. This is followed by evensong at 4.30. On the third Sunday each month, morning service replaces the Eucharist. There is a very active lay participation with experienced servers, intercessors, chalice assistants and lay persons who regularly lead non Eucharistic services. Two lay assistants take home communion. Others members of the congregation serve as governors at St Catherine's CE Primary School whilst others are involved with the local Child Contact Centre and Kemp Hospice. Working with the Parish Music Director is an organist and a regular robed choir averaging eight in number. Our responsibility to care for the earth's people and resources is reflected in the use of ethically produced and Fairtrade products, and our conservation and recycling of resources wherever possible.

In common with other churches we face difficult financial times but are working hard to address this within the context of the team and work together with them.

The church building itself is in good order with a Quinquennial Survey of the church due in 2010. A team from the congregation ensures the inside of the building is clean and bright, with a further team maintaining a neat and tidy garden. The old school is now St Barnabas' Community Hall and is well managed by a group from the congregation. During term time it is home to Barnabees Nursery, together with Wyre Forest Talking Newspaper, Franche Women's Institute and various other hirers. The recent development of the old school building is seen by the congregation as means of outreach, a way of serving the local community which hopefully will be further developed in the future.

As a result of the Wyre Forest Review of Education, St Barnabas School, with a roll of 80 children, closed and a new church school established within the parish. This new school, St Catherine's CE Primary, was established in a building previously occupied by one in special measures and with falling numbers. With the incumbent from St Barnabas as Chair of Governors, a new headteacher was appointed. In common with other schools in the area, staff from 15 local schools were brought together under the leadership of the new head and governors. In June this year, Ofsted said

'This is a satisfactory school. It is improving rapidly and has a number of good features. The most notable strengths are good leadership and management, rising standards and improved teaching and achievement with pupil's good personal development and a happy and successful start for reception children'

A statutory inspection for Anglican schools report in September also said; The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Catherine's as a Church of England school are outstanding. During the past two years St Catherine's has quickly become established as a happy, secure learning community that has a tangible Christian ethos. The strong and effective partnership between the headteacher and the parish priest has been the bedrock upon which this successful school has grown and flourished.'



Foundation governors take an active part in the life of the school, one has recently been appointed chair of governors. They chair curriculum and building committees, and this year will be leading acts of worship for the whole school. Groups from reception to year 6 visit St Barnabas Church to learn about the building and what happens in it. The Year 6 carol service is held there and both pupils and staff join the congregation on Education Sunday.

At present, governors and staff are working together on plans for a new building which should be under construction during the next academic year. This is an exciting opportunity to develop an eco friendly building.

# Kidderminster Deanery Plan

The Deanery Plan envisages the Deanery itself being based on 4 groups or Teams. The neighbouring Parishes of Cookley and Wolverley, both sizable villages close to Kidderminster, will be linked to our Team when the current incumbent, The Reverend Geoffrey Shilvock, retires. Cookley forms part of a Local Ecumenical Project with the Methodist Church.

## More Information about the Team Ministry

**Schools:** The Team makes commitment to local schools a high priority. We are closely involved with the 4 Church schools in the Team Parish and have close contact with others. This involvement includes clergy and lay participation on governing bodies, leading school worship and welcoming school parties on church visits.

The new Vicar in the Team will be particularly linked to St Catherine's Church of England Primary School. Service to the community: The Team has a long history of involvement with the local community, especially with the most deprived areas located in Broadwaters and Horsefair.

**Opportunities for Study:** A number of courses have been delivered across the parish in recent years including several in conjunction with Trinity Methodist Church, most recently a B-course and a course on St. Luke.

**Pastoral Ministry:** Individual clergy and lay people have links with the Hospital League of Friends, with the Contact Centre, with Kemp Hospice and with the Clare Witnell and Blount Charity housing. Local nursing and care homes are regularly visited.

**Ecumenical Links:** The Team Ministry is a member of Churches Together in Kidderminster and we enjoy close relationships with all our ecumenical partners participating in shared Lent courses, Good Friday Worship, Austerity lunches and Christian Aid.

## Housing

A two storied four bedroomed, detached house, 50, Nursery Grove, with a kitchen and one very large reception room, a downstairs study and shower room downstairs (as well as a bathroom upstairs), a double garage and a garden.



# The Role...

## Vicar in the Team

- 1 The successful candidate will be a Vicar within the Team Ministry with pastoral oversight of the congregation at St. Barnabas and care for those living in the Franche area of Kidderminster. The Team Vicar will also be responsible for the small congregation at Trimpley. When Wolverley and Cookley join our Team, the Team Vicar will almost certainly become responsible for Wolverley.( as the Team reorganizes itself) In the next few years it will be important for the successful candidate to work closely with present incumbent, The Reverend Geoffrey Shilvock and to build the relationships which will enable a successful coming together in due course.
- 2 S/he will be expected to play a full part in the life of the Team:
  - Attending monthly staff meetings.
  - Participating in regular Team Away Days and retreats.
  - Be fully involved in the work of the P.C.C and its committees.
  - Be committed to team working and to supporting colleagues in prayer and friendship.
  - Be willing to continue and develop the present wide and varied worship traditions in our various churches.
- 3 The Vicar will be committed to nurturing the congregations at Holy Trinity and St. Barnabas building on existing work with young people at St. Barnabas but with sensitivity to the needs of all ages.
- 4 In addition to his/her role at St. Catherine's Primary School it is hoped that the Team Vicar might be ready to act as Chaplain to our 3 other Church Primary Schools particularly in offering pastoral support and developing the distinctive Christian ethos of our schools. Liason with the Chaplaincy at Wolverley High School would also be important.
- 5 The Team Vicar will seek to work with the 2 DCCs in finding ways to welcome and include new members.
- 6 The Team Vicar will be encouraged to develop his or her skills within the Team.

## Person Specification

The person appointed should be:

- A priest of the Church of England or of a church in full communion with the Church of England and with a minimum of 3 years formally accredited ordained ministry.
- Comfortable with a range of liturgical styles.
- Self-motivated and willing to work on the boundaries.
- Empathetic and able to establish a rapport with a wide range of people.
- Be able to travel to carry out the role around the area of the Team Ministry and beyond.
- Enthusiastic, warm and outward-looking: a people-person!

### And ABOVE ALL

- Be a team player with a readiness to work ecumenically and with a sense of humour too.

This post is subject to CRB enhanced disclosure.

**If you are interested or require more  
information please contact;**

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