

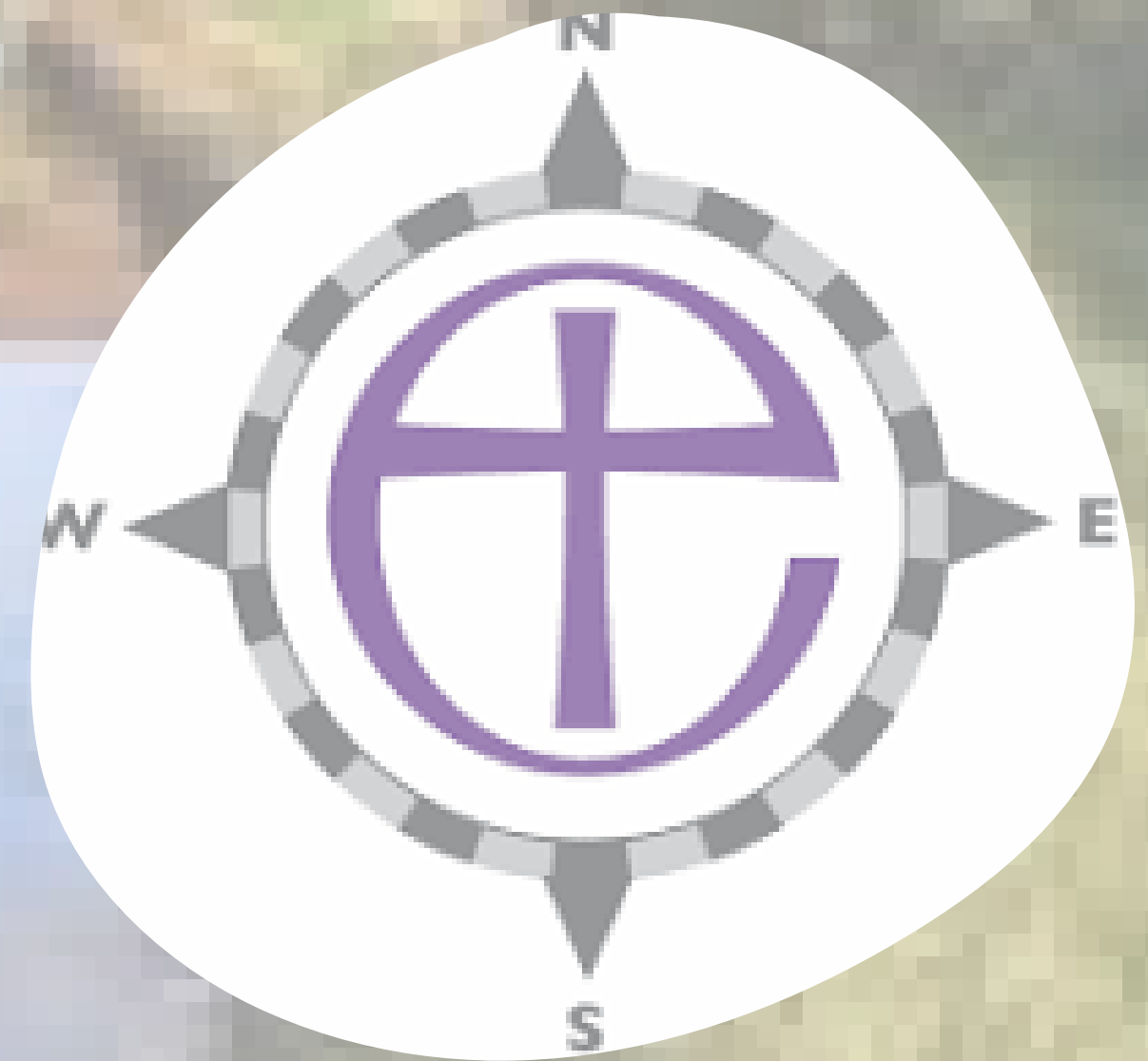
# Welcome to Mid Trent

We are looking for a Priest in Charge who will journey with us, leading with vision, compassion and a pastoral heart, and who will value the gifts of both clergy and laity as we continue to grow in faithfulness and mission.

Our churchwardens and PCC members across Mid Trent are prayerful, committed and enthusiastic about the future of the Benefice. We recognise the joys and challenges of rural multi-parish ministry – from maintaining historic buildings to sustaining vibrant worship and growing discipleship in communities where populations are spread over wide areas.

We have worked together to develop shared patterns of worship, benefice-wide initiatives, and collaborative governance through a Team Council.

We hope this profile will provide you with a glimpse through the window of Mid Trent Benefice and you will want to come and find out more about us.



# Introduction to Mid Trent

Come and lead where faith is alive, community is strong, and new beginnings are already taking root.

The Mid Trent Benefice is united in vision and purpose. Nestled in the heart of Staffordshire's countryside, our villages may be small, but our hearts and hopes are large. We are a single community of churches, working as one to share the love and life of Christ with all whom we encounter.

We believe that faith is not just something we hold, but something we live—and grow. Rooted in prayer and worship, we gather regularly across our churches, including monthly Team Services which bring us together as one benefice family. Our worship sits within the central tradition of the Church of England—reverent, inclusive, and welcoming—but also rich in variety, with Celtic and ecumenical expressions embraced in some parishes. Our mission is clear: growth and new beginnings. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we are exploring new ways to live out the Gospel and deepen our discipleship.

We open the scriptures to local schoolchildren through Open the Book, host creative workshops for families, offer warm and accessible breakfast services, run fellowship and discussion groups, and reach out to care home residents with communion and companionship. From coffee mornings to special services, fundraising events to seasonal celebrations, our churches are alive with energy and warmth.

Our ministry is supported by a collaborative and effective Team Council, dedicated wardens and PCC members, skilled administrators, and a committed treasurer. An integrated rota, a shared service book (Common Worship), and trained lay leaders ensure that our worship remains regular and accessible across the benefice. Some parishes bring unique flavours to this rhythm: Sandon with Burston continues to treasure the Book of Common Prayer, while Fradswell draws from Celtic spirituality, and Milwich embraces ecumenical partnership in its Local Ecumenical Project with the Methodist Church.

We are praying for a Priest in Charge who will lead with vision, compassion, and joy—working alongside our Associate Minister, Reader and Lay Leaders. We long to grow not just in number, but in depth: to become ever more faithful, more fruitful, and more alive to God's calling in these times. If you have a heart for rural ministry, a passion for collaborative leadership, and a desire to see the Gospel touch lives in fresh and lasting ways—we would love to welcome you.

# Our Vision

We have recently revisited our Mission and Vision coming together for a day or reflection and prayer in August 2025.

Together we agreed our mission is:

## **Deepening our individual and team discipleship/ confident leadership**

- Grow our own faith, working with others to deepen our Christian lives together

## **Outreach and evangelism**

- Outreach to those that have yet to respond to God's calling

## **Knowing and responding to our communities**

- Working with our communities outside of our church. Reaching out and supporting those who live in our communities

## **Strengthening the benefice**

- Working together to strengthen our benefice, support our volunteers and reduce the administrative burden for all.

*Our Vision day at Gayton*



# Worship and Prayer

We hold regular services in all our churches .

On the second Sunday there is one Team service, held in rotation across the benefice. These services are becoming increasingly popular as congregations [average attendance 50-60 people] come together from churches getting to know each other and building our sense of community within the benefice.

Throughout August there are Team services to support holidays for all those involved in church life.

We are proud of our diversity of our worship. There is a varied style of worship from Pet services to Matins, from dawn breakfast to the book of Common Prayer.

Our worship is summed up in our prayer from our Mission Day

*“We pray for the churches with strong rhythms of worship,  
and for those with flickering flames.*

*May each church find its own faithful heartbeat.*

*We pray for those whose faith is deep, and those who are only just curious”*

Our services are supported by Lay Readers, Retired clergy, Lay people who are talented and willing to learn and wanting to be led by our new priest in charge. We have an Associate Minister, Rev'd Viv Starkie, who is a self supporting minister and looks forward to welcoming and working with you.

**In the benefice at Fradswell**



*Where Faith, Land and Community Walk  
Hand in Hand.*

Their worship embraces their agricultural community with Rogation, Clypping and Lambing Sunday celebrations. Services are rooted in tradition but flourish in spirit as evidenced through Pet Service and the Lords of the Misrule over Christmas

# Discipleship Ministry

Our vision centres on discipleship, ministry and evangelism, areas we are keen to develop and build on our existing work. This will be a central plank of the work that you will lead us in.

We hold:

Lent courses: This year we are using the “Acts of Hope” written by the charity, Embrace the Middle East. Previous years have included Women of Holy Week.

Advent course: this year based on The Antiphonic In previous years we have “Advent in Narnia” and “Praying with Carols”

Mission and Vision day: This was our first day where anyone in the Benefice could attend to pray and discuss our future strategy. We want to repeat this.

Home groups: Held successfully in the Benefice in the past and we know that people appreciate the value they find from growing their faith in a small group setting.

We hope you will help us to address these challenges, inspiring and equipping people to invest more time and energy in helping themselves and others to grow in their faith. We aspire to have a more established route for new Christians to develop their faith in the Benefice

*In the benefice at Hixon*



Hixon has the largest numbers of residents within the benefice. With two industrial estates and shops, there is opportunity to explore different ways of bringing people to Christianity . The Church opens regularly at the weekend to welcome the community for tea and cake.

# Safeguarding

Mid Trent Benefice is committed to Safeguarding and ensuring that our environments and activities are safe for all those we serve.

The Benefice has a regular safeguarding meeting with the Parish Safeguarding Officers which:

- Oversees DBS checks
- Provides support for safeguarding leads, as this can be an isolated role
- Keeps records of safeguarding training. Church wardens have undertaken additional training whilst we wait for a priest in charge.
- Will support any reported concerns
- Reviews Policy regularly

Safeguarding is on every Team Council and PCC agenda and is discussed at every meeting. Each parish has a safeguarding dashboard with the majority now on Level 3. We complete risk assessments for our church activities. Our PSG's have a lively Whatsapp group to keep everyone up to date.

Our aim is to ensure everyone is supported and cared for within our church community, we believe that the church should be a place of safety, protection and welcome.

*In the benefice at Salt and Hopton*



Our porch is the drop off point for for House of Bread donations [local homeless charity] collection. We use the same facility for our villagers' weekly bread collection and produce distribution, so setting us at the heart of the village and making sure that we are looking out for everyone in our community.



# Community Engagement and Pastoral Support

Mission is at the “heart of our activities”. We want everyone to hear the gospel of Christ and we work hard to take the word out into our communities and get involved.

Our Mission activities extend beyond Sunday worship:

- Through our work with our local Primary schools and children’s events. We hold a Christmas event for children and their families. Transforming our church in Weston into “Narnia” and a Christmas winter wonderland.
- Our Social events and clubs – coffee mornings, Knit and Natter, craft groups, concerts, Open gardens, Lent lunches – provide fellowship and community presence. Compass, our magazine, is full of our events!
- Pastoral care is shared across clergy and trained lay visitors, with attention to the elderly, families and those experiencing life changes. Benefice-wide pastoral teams work with local care homes and support networks. We want to expand our reach with our pastoral work and want to work with you to find new ways of providing this support.
- Our background picture shows some of our community, carol singing at our local hospital.

Our Christmas Children activity



# Engaging our community

We communicate across our wide benefice through our magazine Compass, delivered free to 2,500 homes, with 10 editions a year. It is self financed through company adverts and donations from individuals.

We have a team of people involved; collecting content and delivering to homes. One of the Mid Trent Council coordinates all the advertising and donations and our finance assistant keeps all the finance documentation in order. Our editor is inspirational - you'll only appreciate it once you have read a copy!

We have an active on line presence helping to keep our community informed, connected and inspired.

Our "A Church near you page" is very active. We encourage you to have a look at it using the QR code opposite and become the 203,545<sup>th</sup> hit in the last year. On average we have over 3000 views a week and 18,500 a month. On there you will find out about our individual churches including a wealth of information about the benefice and links to our social media pages.

Our Online presence is covered within our safeguarding responsibilities

Take a look at our Church near you page



# Children and Young People

Our children and young people are the future of our church and we work hard to engage with them. We have two Church of England primary schools in the benefice at Weston and Hixon. With a third primary school at Milwich.

- Our “Open the Book” team do five assemblies a term involving the children in the acting and the bible stories. Whilst we say it ourselves - these are fabulous, we will be delighted to welcome you to them
- There are regular School services within our church and village hall for the pupils, parents and staff
- A team from Fradswell church do assemblies for the school in Milwich.
- We welcome the children from the Mumbles, the local day nursery to Sandon church to mark seasons in the Church year and part of the Heritage project
- We support the schools through Foundation Governors who link back into our PCC’s.
- The Benefice holds a “Good Friday workshop” which is hosted at St Andrews primary school attracting between 30-40 children each year.
- And our Christingles held throughout the benefice remain standing room only.



# Leadership, Governance and Finance

The Benefice is governed through Parochial Church Councils in each parish and a Team Council that coordinates benefice-wide strategy, service planning and shared ministries. Lay leaders play key roles in worship, pastoral care, safeguarding and finance.

Parishes take stewardship seriously, balancing the care of historic buildings with ministry needs. All parishes contribute to the Common Fund and undertake fundraising to support mission, outreach and building maintenance.

We deliver the practicalities of running the benefice through an effective Team Council supported by team strong of wardens, PCC members, experienced administrators and team council

*In the benefice at Stowe*



Friends of Stowe are active members of the wider church community who support the up keep and a variety of events. A model that is being thought about across the benefice.

# Church Heritage

All Saints' Sandon is a Grade I Listed church dating from the 12th Century, known for its rare collection of post-Reformation genealogical wall paintings, heraldic glass above the altar, and the Erdeswicke family monuments spanning five generations to the time of Elizabeth I. The church also holds a large Royal Coat of Arms of Charles II and two 19th-Century stained-glass windows by William Wailes in the style of Augustus Pugin.

Thanks to a major grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, these historic features are now being carefully restored, along with essential work to the church building to protect it for future generations. Conservation of the church takes place from November 2025 to May 2026.

The grant also supports a wide programme of activities through to 2027, offering children and adults new ways to explore the history and heritage of All Saints', along with volunteering opportunities.

The project includes a range of biodiversity initiatives in the churchyard and forms an important part of our outreach as a worshipping community.

More details are available at [www.sandonallsaints.com](http://www.sandonallsaints.com).

*In the benefice at Sandon and Burston*



# Eco Church

Environmentally friendly is part of our calling as Christians. Our concern for God's creation takes us to the heart of what it means to be a disciple in today's work.

As a Benefice we are continuing our journey in supporting our churches & its leadership in caring for God's earth implementing Rocha UK's Eco Church programme

We are now working our way towards the 5 areas to achieve accreditation:

- Worship and teaching
- Buildings
- Land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle



# A Place to Call Home

Mid Trent sits within Stafford Deanery, a friendly rural deanery where clergy and lay leaders support one another through shared training, mission planning and pastoral care. It provides regular opportunities for learning, encouragement and collaboration in worship, safeguarding and community life.

The benefice sits in rural Staffordshire, surrounded by fields, peaceful villages and small hamlets, yet still well linked to Stafford and nearby towns. Each village has a clear sense of identity, shaped by long-standing groups, village halls, sports teams and regular community events.

Growing villages like Weston and Hixon bring a mix of long-term residents and new families. Local schools and community activities offer many chances to meet people and build relationships throughout the week.

Weston, home to the Rectory, is a lively yet peaceful English village with a large central green and easy access to nearby fields and countryside. The community is open and friendly, and the village calendar includes a summer fete, Christmas fair, cake sales, quiz nights and outdoor celebrations. Weston has a village hall, Methodist church, primary schools, two pubs and St Andrews Church, with weekly classes such as badminton, pilates, table tennis and yoga.

Just 15 minutes from Stafford or Stone and about 35 minutes from the Cathedral City of Lichfield, the village is well placed for travel. Stafford train station runs fast direct services to Birmingham, Manchester and London, with onward links to international airports.

# A Place to Call Home

The Rectory was built in 2008, situated in the heart of Weston [ST18 0HX]. The office and accessibility toilet are at one end of the property and could be sectioned off to give a defined working area to support your work/ life balance. The property will be decorated throughout before you arrive.



There is a separate lounge, dining room which has doors which can be opened out into the kitchen which has a variety of cupboards, hob and oven. Off the kitchen there is a utility room with back door to the garden.

Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, the main bedroom is ensuite.

Outside there is a tarmac drive, separate single garage. To the rear of the property there is patio area and grass. The garden could be seen as a “blank canvas”.

# What are we offering you?

We offer you:

- Understanding for the time clergy need with their families , along with support through sharing tasks that others can help with.
- Help for your professional growth, including study leave.
- A place in the wider clergy community for shared support, such as the Stafford Deanery chapter.
- There is a requirement to drive, with mileage covered for work in the Mid Trent benefice and access to a diocesan car loan scheme.
  - A dedicated team who want to work with you, to grow the Mid Trent Benefice.

*Sunrise 14th Dec 2025*

# Role Description

Who We Are Praying For :

We believe God is preparing someone special to join us on our journey of faith and growth here in the Mid Trent Benefice. We are praying for a Priest in Charge who is grounded in prayer, energised by mission, and ready to lead with authenticity, imagination, and joy. We hope you are someone who:

## **Leads with confidence and compassion**

You are a capable and collaborative leader, with the wisdom to navigate the unique rhythms of rural life. You understand the blessings—and the practical challenges—of working across multiple parishes, and you value the support of an established Team Council, committed lay leaders, and strong administrative structures.

## **Empowers others**

You are someone who inspires and equips others—both clergy and laity—to grow in faith and confidence. You nurture gifts in those around you, encourage collaboration, and enable the whole body of Christ to play its part in sharing the Gospel, caring for the vulnerable, and serving the wider community.

*Sunrise 14th Dec 2025*

# Role Description

## **Communicates with warmth and ease**

You can engage with people of all ages and walks of life. You are a thoughtful listener, sensitive to individual needs, and blessed with a good sense of humour. You recognise that relationships build trust—and trust opens doors for mission, growth, and transformation.

## **Has vision, courage and imagination**

You are someone who sees possibility where others might see problems. You are willing to take prayerful risks and follow God's call into new spaces. Your faith is adventurous, and your leadership is marked by hope. You are creative, curious and open-hearted. You bring fresh ideas and spiritual depth, and you're not afraid to challenge or be challenged. You help others think beyond the usual, while honouring what has gone before.

## **Builds community both within and beyond the church**

You have a heart for reaching out, strengthening links across the villages and encouraging all of us to share our faith—not only inside the church building, but in the fields, homes, schools and everyday encounters of our lives.

# Person Specification

Evangelism	<p>A strong “Highly Visible” Leader.          An advocate for recognition and encouragement of discipleship          A developer of new ideas, being willing to try and fail as well as trying and succeeding.          An effective communicator willing and able to collaborate with a diverse team of people.</p>
Vocation	<p>Recognition of your own calling          Maintaining a vocational prayer life, leaving time for your own personal growth in God. .          To grow in Christlikeness, whilst inviting others to join you on the journey. To recognize and utilise the benefits of engaging with and working alongside your Ministry Team, Readers, Churchwardens, Verger, and PCC members.          Enabling Mission and Growth in Rural churches          Evidence of encouraging and growing stewardship.          Evidence of reaching out to the community          Exercise ministry as recognised and regarded minister of the Methodist church as one of our churches is a Methodist-Anglican LEP</p>
General Experience	<p>Evidence of effective working in an Anglican Parish Ministry and a commitment to Church growth.          Evidence of leading worship and preaching in a variety of styles to engage with people of varying outlooks, ages, and understanding including school’s ministry.          Evidence of identifying pastoral care needs and ensuring appropriate structures and skills to provide this to the community.          Evidence of growing disciples and growing stewardship by building on the confidence and gifts of God’s people.</p>
Personal Attributes	<p>To be able to talk about and share your own secure, personal prayerful Christian Faith          Energetic and enthusiastic, with a good sense of humour.          Strong time management, planning and organisational skills, with good IT and audio-visual skills.          Have empathy to be able to help, bring comfort and reassurance to those in need or at the end of their lives.          Ensures that work with children both in schools and in church is in place and is effective. e.g. communion training/services.</p>
General	<p>To recognize the work done and yet to be done in our Eco-Friendly churches.          To work with the available technology to enhance the delivery of services e.g., weddings, funerals, and regular worship</p>

# Our Mid Trent prayer

At the beginning of our meetings our:

## Opening prayer

As we gather, we come as one in hope drawn to the warmth of shared prayer.

All: **Guide us, Spirit of God, in our steps together**

We hold before you our benefice, land people and our churches, some steady and some struggling

All: **May each find its heartbeat of faith and may our differences become our strength.**

Bless those who carry the weight of leadership.

And bless the priest yet to come among us, that they may find joy, not burden, here.

All: **We are one in Christ, bound together in love and purposed.**

**Amen.**

At the close of our meetings

## Closing prayer

Gracious God, thank you for this time together. Go with us into our parishes and homes,

The soil may be hard, but you the great gardener, knowing what growth lies beneath,

God's hand around,

God's strength within, God's blessing over Mid Trent ever

more

**Amen**

**Written by one of our lay preachers to be used as we pray for our new Priest in Charge**

*Sunrise 14th Dec 2025*

# Is this the Position for you?

If you are called to serve in a vibrant, diverse and collaborative rural context; if you value shared leadership, prayerful discipleship and creative engagement with communities; and if you are excited to join a benefice rooted in both tradition and forward-looking mission, we warmly invite you to prayerfully consider this role as Priest in Charge of the Mid Trent Churches Benefice.

We would love to welcome you.

