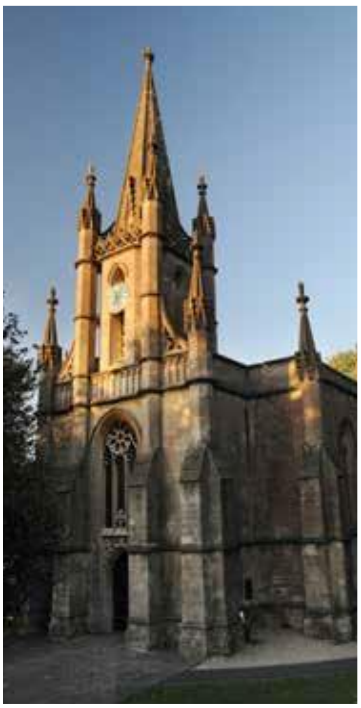
Profile of the United Benefice of Combe Down with Monkton Combe and South Stoke

Contents

03 Welcome

04 Our vision for the future
06 About you
07 Our churches
10 Who are we?
13 Strengths and challenges
14 Who's Who
16 What happens on a Sunday?
18 What happens during the week?
22 Buildings
24 The Covid-19 Pandemic
25 Relationships with other churches
26 Mission links
28 What we can offer you
30 Who to contact?

Welcome



B

We extend a very warm welcome to you, from the United Benefice of Combe Down with Monkton Combe and South Stoke.

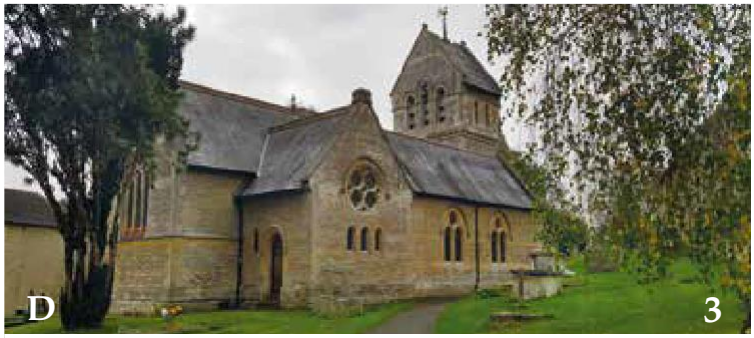
We are a Benefice of three parishes, worshipping in four churches, with a common vision.

Holy Trinity Combe Down (HTCD)
St Andrew's Community Church, Foxhill (StACC)
St James, South Stoke (St James)
St Michael's, Monkton Combe (St Michael's)

We are looking for a Senior Associate Minister for Growth who will preach biblical truth, led by the Holy Spirit, and who will help us take the invitation of Jesus to the wider community.

We pray that this profile will help you discern if God is calling you to join us as we seek to walk in His ways and grow His Kingdom.

C


D

Our vision for the future

The vision of all four churches is to grow disciples who will share God's love in and around Bath and beyond, so that lives and communities can be transformed.

We want to see God's Kingdom on earth.

HTCD is a resourcing and equipping church. We have had 20 people from our congregation become ordained in the last 20 years. We have helped to build five congregations locally.

We believe in the authority of God's Word.

We value studying the Bible, not least in Home Groups and there are 20 across the Benefice. We enjoy Spirit-inspired biblical preaching. We want to grow!

We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit.

At HTCD we love to see the Holy Spirit at work: before the main services before the Covid-19 Pandemic, we would wait on the Lord for prophetic words or pictures for the service. It is special when we are led to sing 'in the Spirit'. We seek a leader who is open to waiting on the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the centrality and power of prayer.

We have had a Zoom service for about 30 devices every weekday morning right through the Covid-19 Pandemic since last April. We have also had prayer walks, 24/7 prayer, corporate prayer, prayer chains, prayer triplets and prayer ministry. We want these innovative and creative styles of prayer to flourish.

We seek to deepen our understanding of God's love for each one of us and to worship him fully in every part of our lives.

Across our Benefice we have a wide variety of worship styles, from robed morning worship, messy church and contemporary band led worship, but we know the style is less important than to worship in spirit and truth.

We seek to grow a strong sense of family and community within our churches, caring and sharing in spiritual, emotional and practical ways.

Some of our elderly members are enabled to stay in their own homes because of the love, care and practical support given by the church. We love having community events! At StACC we run two toddler groups, a free lunch club for the lonely and vulnerable, at HTCD we have had family fun events on Firs Field.

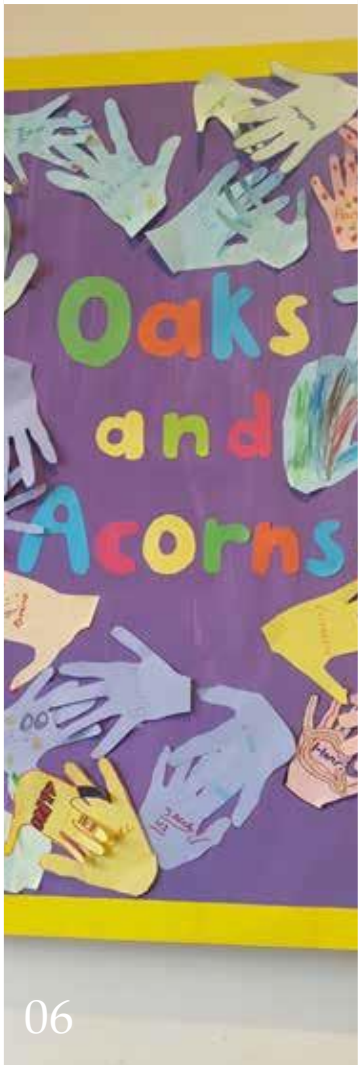
We seek to obey Jesus' great commission and demonstrate God's love to others.

At HTCD we have run a successful Alpha course online this year. We have a CAP debt centre and are involved in Street Pastors. We are welcoming individually every new family that moves on to the new Mulberry Park estate. With the prospect of over 1,000 new homes in Mulberry Park and Sulis Down over the next ten years, we must continue this community outreach.

HTCD's ministry priorities have been:

- **Developing a culture of invitation**
- **Nurturing a hunger for God**
- **Praying for His presence on Mulberry Park**
- **Developing a sense of belonging by investing in families**
- **Developing young leaders.**

About you



The Benefice will welcome over 1,000 new families over the next ten years. This is a crucial time in our community's life. So, we need someone with a heartfelt passion for mission beyond the walls of our churches, who will lead, inspire and challenge us to put our faith into action across our Benefice.

We have a well-developed lay ministry and we believe that every member has something to give. At HTCD we also have a large staff team. Our congregation believes in Every Member Ministry under the Holy Spirit's direction, so we need someone who can lead us in outreach outside our church building by example, training and planning.

Our churches

Where Are We?

About 85,000 people live in Bath, famous for its Roman Baths and Georgian architecture. It is surrounded by beautiful countryside and the wooded hills around the city are as much a part of its charm as the Bath stone buildings within.

Bath is one of the busiest tourist destinations in the country outside London with a vibrant cultural life. The city has two universities with a large student population and many excellent schools. Bath Rugby, Bath City Football Club and Somerset Cricket Club attract strong and loyal support. Bath's main employers include the local Council, the universities, the NHS and the hospitality and tourism sectors, while significant numbers of Bath residents commute to workplaces elsewhere, mainly along the M4 corridor.

For a small city, Bath has a huge amount to offer. However, although unemployment is low, housing costs are very high so people who work in low wage sectors often live up to 20 miles away to find affordable homes. Bath also includes significant areas of social deprivation, not least in Combe Down parish.

The Benefice

The church of Holy Trinity Combe Down (HTCD) is in a village suburb on the southern edge of Bath. Its second congregation, St Andrew's Community Church (StACC), is nearby on Foxhill, a local housing estate and an area of significant social deprivation. The churches of St James South Stoke and St Michael's Monkton Combe are both in affluent local villages. These distinct congregations are all part of our Benefice.

Combe Down (HTCD)

Combe Down was built over stone mines, quarried for building in Bath, and many of the pretty stone terraces were once quarrymen's cottages.

There are several shops providing daily essentials and a bus service into and around the city, which is also only a brisk half an hour walk away, down a steep hill.

The local state primary school is Combe Down CEVC Primary School. The nearest state secondary school with sixth form is Ralph Allen School. Monkton Prep School, Pre-Prep and Nursery are all in Combe Down village. An independent Catholic foundation school for children aged between 2 and 18, Prior Park College, is located a short walk from the village centre.

Foxhill (StACC)

The Foxhill estate was mostly built in the early 1950s. It is in the top 20% of social deprivation in the UK based on the 2019 census. There is around 70% social housing, the majority of which is owned by Curo Housing Association.

Curo acquired the former MOD site (now known as Mulberry Park) adjacent to the Foxhill estate and is building around 700 new homes of which 30% will be allocated for social rental. Mulberry Park includes a new primary school and a community centre. The Curo strategy is to move some families out of social housing on Foxhill, into the new units on Mulberry Park.

South Stoke (St James)

South Stoke, three miles south of Bath, is a hillside parish on the southern edge of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Parish is spread over an area of about 800 acres and includes part of the hamlet of Midford.

South Stoke village, the major part of the parish, has a mixed population of just over 400. Houses range from large, detached properties to terraced cottages mostly in private ownership.

A substantial development of new homes within the Parish on Sulis Down has been approved at policy level. This represents an influx of people more than double the present population of South Stoke. Such an expansion may be seen as an opportunity, but also presents a challenge to the character of South Stoke.

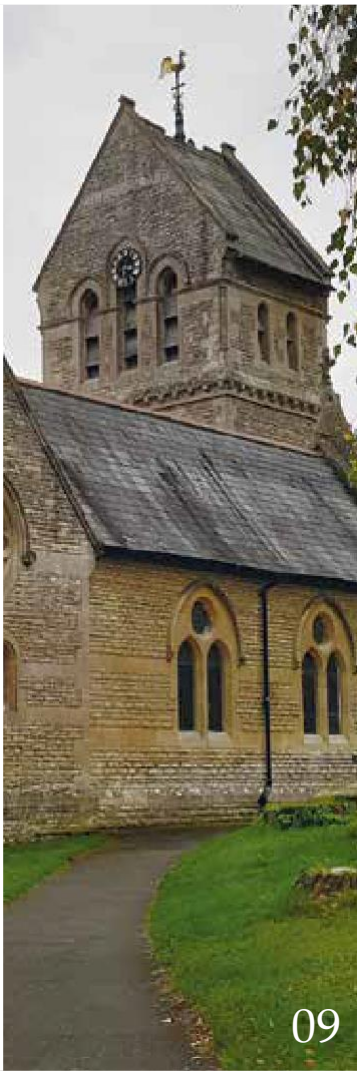
The village has a very strong sense of community. The refurbishment of the Packhorse Inn (by a consortium of residents) has been a successful local venture.

Monkton Combe (St Michael's)

Monkton Combe is a rural parish of about 300 residents, on the south-facing slope of the Midford Brook valley, south of Bath.

The single largest constituent of the village is Monkton Senior School, an independent boarding school for pupils aged 13-18. The school owns a number of houses, but there is also a lively community within the village. There is a well-used village hall, an active Women's Institute and a popular pub whose accommodation, food and gardens are a focal point for the locality.

Most residents, if they are not employed by the school, travel to work locally, although some commute as far as London. There is a good cross-section of ages within the village, although weighted towards those who can afford to live in the area.



Who are we?

HTCD

Holy Trinity was first consecrated as a Parish Church in 1835 and in 1973 became united with the parishes of Monkton Combe and South Stoke in a Union of Benefices.

HTCD is a vibrant, evangelical "Word and Spirit" Church, connected to the New Wine Network, consisting of a warm and friendly group of about 300 people of all ages, families, single people and students, with a heart for God and a desire to see people and communities transformed by Jesus.

There are currently 243 people on our electoral roll both from within and beyond the parish. Before the Covid-19 Pandemic our 9am Sunday service averaged 80 adults, and our 10.30am service 100 adults plus 40 children and young people.

God has blessed us with gifted people, many of whom dedicate themselves to serving faithfully in many ministry areas.

HTCD is a resourcing and equipping church. 20 people have gone on from HTCD to train for the ordained ministry in the last 20 years. We have been involved in building new congregations and, through an initiative called 'Share the Fire', in strengthening existing churches. We provided "a scaffolding" of support for a new congregation in nearby Peasedown St John in 2009. Most recently, we planted an emerging generation church at St Matthew's, Widcombe, near the centre of Bath, now led by a former curate of HTCD. Approximately 40 of our congregation left HTCD with our blessing to help establish this congregation and we are beginning to replace them.

"We really like the focus on the word and spirit, bringing both of these together. And we love the way the church is integrated into the community and cares for the community."
Esther and Rob Youlten, moved to Bath in 2017, with three young children.

StACC

HTCD's "daughter church" is St Andrew's Community Church. The original St Andrew's church was built in the 1950s at the same time as the Foxhill Estate. Badly damaged by arson in 1990s, it had to be demolished. With a combination of the insurance proceeds, a legacy and a fund raising campaign centred at HTCD, the new Community Church was eventually built, opened by the Bishop of Bath and Wells on St Andrew's Day 2011.

StACC is community focused and the building and pre-Covid-19 Pandemic was open all week for regular events and 'drop in'. We see ourselves as a 'lighthouse' and a 'lifeboat', to the community, with an 'open door' policy welcoming all local people throughout the week regardless of their faith, age, or ethnicity. We consider it is vital to offer physical, emotional and spiritual encouragement through being a reliable and constant presence, every day of the week, pointing people gently towards Jesus. Sunday services at StACC had an average attendance of 40. There is an active church WhatsApp group that is a spiritual and emotional support through the Covid-19 Pandemic.

"A good church. Very reliable.
They've looked after me and my kids.
A good bunch of people."
John Renwick, father of three children attending StACC.

St James

St James electoral roll currently stands at 60 and the church pre-Covid-19 Pandemic regularly attracts over 30 people to its weekly Sunday morning service, from tinies to those in their nineties. A little less than half of these come from outside the parish. Service structure follows the church's year, using modern liturgy and readings from the lectionary. There is traditionally a robed choir at Communion and other special services. Musical accompaniment utilises either organ or electric piano.

The congregation is predominantly elderly and mature and, while wishing to continue with the current services, has proved open to ideas for developing the impact of the church within the community. To support the younger element in the congregation, a regular and enthusiastic All Age Service has added a more informal style.

"There is a feeling of tranquillity and closeness to God, partly as a result of so many years of worship in the place. The majority of the congregation have a part to play in the running of the church, however small and this leads to friendships."

Jenny Torrance,
long serving member.

St Michael's

The present church of St Michael's was built in 1865, replacing an earlier building, parts of which were Saxon, and associated, as was the village itself, with the monks of Bath Abbey.

The church has strong historic links with Monkton School, a Christian school in the evangelical tradition of the Anglican Church, which was founded in 1868 by the vicar of Monkton Combe. We have an annual service for school leavers where the congregation undertakes to pray regularly for them for the year after they leave school.

The congregation tends to be more mature in years, with a spiritual maturity born of many years of church attendance. About two thirds of the congregation are retired, but almost all are active in serving the church in some way. We see ourselves as welcoming and caring, dependent on God, and with a flexible and prayerful approach to fulfilling God's will.

There are 40 on the electoral roll, of whom the majority are regular attendees on Sunday, many coming from outside the parish. A typical attendance is 25-30.

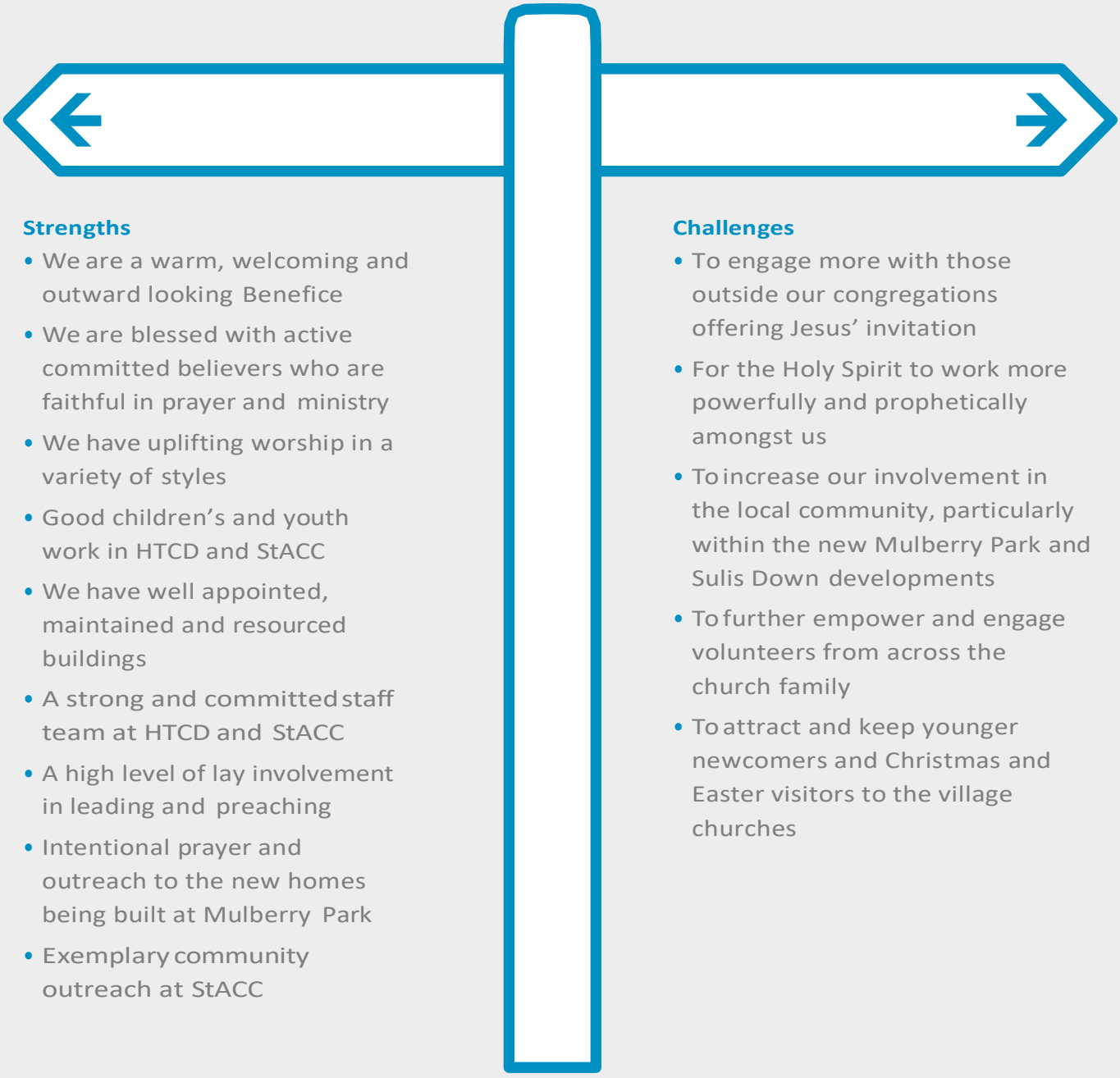
"We are an active and caring community with a 'family' atmosphere. Visitors and potential new members are given a warm and meaningful welcome. For all this we are grateful to God."

A regular worshipper.

Strengths and Challenges

STRENGTHS

CHALLENGES



Strengths

- We are a warm, welcoming and outward looking Benefice
- We are blessed with active committed believers who are faithful in prayer and ministry
- We have uplifting worship in a variety of styles
- Good children's and youth work in HTCD and StACC
- We have well appointed, maintained and resourced buildings
- A strong and committed staff team at HTCD and StACC
- A high level of lay involvement in leading and preaching
- Intentional prayer and outreach to the new homes being built at Mulberry Park
- Exemplary community outreach at StACC

Challenges

- To engage more with those outside our congregations offering Jesus' invitation
- For the Holy Spirit to work more powerfully and prophetically amongst us
- To increase our involvement in the local community, particularly within the new Mulberry Park and Sulis Down developments
- To further empower and engage volunteers from across the church family
- To attract and keep younger newcomers and Christmas and Easter visitors to the village churches

Who's Who

Working arrangements:

HTCD and StACC

HTCD is a registered charity and we are guided by our constitution.
Our patron is the Rector of Bath Abbey.

The Staff team for HTCD and StACC comprises:

Vicar:	Shawn Swinney
Curates:	Chris Absolon (voluntary, part-time)
	Katy Partridge (full Time)
Associate Minister (Families Ministry):	Sharon Blair (voluntary, part-time)
Associate Minister for St Andrews:	To be appointed (full time)
Senior's Minister:	Polly Andrews (voluntary, part time)
Operations Manager:	Liz Hume (part-time)
Children's Minister:	Claire Morrish (full time)
Youth Minister/Community worker:	Stuart McLachlan (full time)
CAP Centre Manager:	Amanda Wetton (part time)
CAP Debt Coach:	Vicki Wooding (part-time)
Administrator:	Jane Bradby (part time)
Finance Officer:	Anna Evans (part-time)
Communications Officer:	Charlotte Dawes (part time)
StACC Centre Manager & Outreach:	Susie Houston (part time)
Caretaker:	Chris Stone (full time)
Churchwardens:	Christine Absolon and Nick Alexander

The staff team meets weekly. The Senior Leadership Team oversees the implementation of key policy decisions and transacts the day-to-day business of the PCC. Many volunteers run many of the mid-week activities and lead and support the Sunday services at HTCD and at StACC by welcoming people, reading, leading worship and prayers, and also preaching.

The Benefice is privileged to have two Readers and a retired bishop, John Perry, who officiate at the more traditional services of worship within the Benefice.

The church office supports the ministry and mission of HTCD and StACC. It also provides some administrative support for St James and St Michael's.

PCC and Governance

HTCD with StACC has an enthusiastic, committed and prayerful PCC who, together with the staff team, seek to lead the two churches. The PCC meets at least 6 times a year. The PCC has three sub-committees - Standing, Staffing and Buildings.

The PCC comprises elected members, the Treasurer, the two churchwardens and the vicar and, the curates. There are also two deputy wardens who are not members of the PCC, one of whom has special responsibility for StACC.

St James

The Parish has benefited greatly from the involvement of Bishop John Perry, who typically leads two Communion services a month and has a major pastoral role in the Parish.

The PCC numbers 14, including two Churchwardens, and meets at least four times a year under the chairmanship of the Vicar.

We have designated people to attend to Finance, Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Electoral Roll, Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod, as well as a Verger and leaders for volunteer groups attending to church cleaning, flower arranging and maintenance.

The Church produces approximately 170 copies of monthly Parish Notes, going to church members, village friends and our wider supportive community.

St Michael's

The PCC consists of eight members, including two churchwardens, and meet four times a year, under the chairmanship of the vicar. The cleaning of the church and the flower arranging is carried out by members of the congregation on a rota. The churchyard is cared for by a paid part-time worker.

What happens on a Sunday?

Our United Benefice is made up of five distinct congregations; two traditional Anglican services, three contemporary ones and a monthly messy church.

HTCD

We have two contemporary services on a Sunday morning. During the Covid-19 Pandemic all our services have been streamed and on You Tube for catch up, and all pre-recorded or a hybrid of in person and pre-recorded. After each morning service prayer ministry was available and is now available through the 'chat'. Coffee and tea is served between the services to allow the two congregations to mix.

9am Congregation

This service is band-led worship and is more contemplative in style. Holy Communion used to be celebrated twice a month.

10.30am Congregation

A lively, informal, contemporary service with band led worship and provision for children and young people. Communion was celebrated once a month.

Adult baptisms by immersion, renewal of baptismal vows, dedication of children and infant baptism also take place as requested in these services.

Shawn Swinney is based at HTCD 3 Sundays of the month.

"The worship at church is amazing,
and we feel honoured and excited to be part of a church
where God is clearly moving – a "Word and Spirit" church.
This next stage in HTCD's future is exciting!"
Alison Abbott.

StACC

Pre- Covid-19 Pandemic an informal Sunday contemporary worship, led by members of the congregation was held in the Main Hall, preceded by Tea & Toast. Communion by Extension was celebrated once a month. Children's groups are coordinated by the Children's Worker.

Messy Church was held at 4.30pm on the first Sunday of every month including crafts, Bible story with a children's song and a hot meal.

St James

Pre- Covid-19 Pandemic the principal service on a Sunday is at 9.30am. Holy Communion is celebrated twice a month alternating with Morning Service, All Age service and, if there is a fifth Sunday, BCP Morning prayer.

Easter and Christmas services and Harvest and Mothering Sunday draw many village families who are not regular attenders.

There is a small, robed choir and robes are usually worn at services except at the All Age service. All services are accompanied by music and hymns (mainly from BBC Songs of Praise) with more contemporary songs at All Age. At All Age services, the young people take part by helping with reading and leading the prayers. We are well supported by Readers from across the Benefice who currently conduct the majority of the Services of the Word along with our Churchwarden and Chris Absolon the curate and Bishop John Perry.

"My husband and I arrived in the village earlier this year and the welcome we received encouraged us to stay, even though the traditional form of services had not been our preferred form of worship. There is a very real sense of community and fellowship"
David and Jane Wicks.

St Michael's

There is a service at 11.00am each Sunday. We have one communion service a month – the others are Morning Prayer.

The form of service is taken from Common Prayer and reflects the seasons of the Church's year. Lectionary readings are normally followed. Members of the congregation are actively involved in reading and leading intercessions: at present there are 18 members on the rota.

Currently, the majority of services are not led by a member of the clergy, but St Michael's is ably supported by two Readers, and others who preach on an occasional basis.

Coffee and biscuits are served after every service and this forms an important part of the church's pastoral care and mission.

What happens during the week?

HTCD and StACC

During the Covid-19 Pandemic we have been amazed how folk have been moved to pray each morning on zoom. We use Northumbria Community liturgy and pray for local needs, national and international issues. It has been a hugely encouraging, community building initiative.

It is very encouraging that there are about ten prayer groups run, ranging from prayer groups for specific ministries, for example for the work of our Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre, our Seniors Ministry and Family Ministry, for the Persecuted Church, International mission, for Revival, the sick, and there is also a prayer chain and encouragement to develop prayer triplets. Prayer ministry is available after the morning services and on the online service.

"Hazel and I have been a part of HTCD since we moved to Combe Down. In the first week we attended the Thursday 7 a.m. prayer meeting and knew immediately that this was a church with a beating heart where we would feel at home among committed believers who not only take the Word of God seriously, but also expect to see the Holy Spirit at work in their lives."
David Jewel, Seniors.

Small Groups

We encourage members of the congregation to be in a home group, and provide questions based on the weekly sermons. There are 17 home groups with 220 members, and a regular newcomers' group at HT. A couple in the congregation lead the home groups and care for the leaders.

Pastoral Care

The church has an organised system of pastoral care which takes place through home groups, the Families Minister or through the Senior's Minister and pastoral team.

Children

We have about 40 young children regularly connect with our 10.30 service and we provide three "Crews" for them. We aim to raise our children to be "Ready, Equipped and Willing" for all that God has called them to be. Children's groups also ran for little children at StACC older children were bused over to HT.

We provide invitational opportunities for our families with primary school age children such as our Light Party on Halloween, our summer Holiday Club in person or online and seasonal events such as Funky Foot Good Friday. We have had have between 50 to 60 children attending these events when in person.

"I like the children's work, for my age group and I LIKE THE balance of being in church and being in Peter's Crew. I feel I can ask any of the grownups or children to pray for me, and there's been answers to prayer. I've been to the Lights party for the last 3 years, which has been really good to celebrate God rather than evil spirits."
Lucy

Combe Down CEVC Primary School

As a church we have an excellent relationship with the school (406 children - whose site neighbours the Church). We host services for the school and support them spiritually through providing assemblies, reflective prayer workshops and Christmas and Easter experiences. We have Foundation Governors who work with the teachers to oversee the school's ethos and encourage the relationship between church and school. The most recent SIAMS inspection was 'outstanding': 'The school's Christian values shine out in its daily life'.

"I go to Combe Down Primary School, and it's good that we get to see Sharon, or Claire, or Steve when they do our assemblies. I've also just learned all about the OT because people from church come into our school to do 'Walk thru the bible' with years 5 and 6."
Edward, year 5.

Youth

Our Youth Minister, together with volunteers, runs two youth groups for ages 11 to 18. "Foxhill Youth" meets on Thursday nights at StACC, whilst "Ignite", meets at HTCD on Fridays. Approximately 18 young people attend each evening. In addition, we hold an after church Bible study for the older youth called "Deeper" which looks deeper into the word of God and empowers young people to be radical in their faith and to grow in the gifting God has given them. In his outreach role our Youth Minister has also run a prayer space for year group 7, 8 and 9 at Ralph Allen School, alongside Bath Youth For Christ. The prayer space is a time for young people to explore the Bible and to help unchurched young people understand it in a real life way. At the school our Youth Minister mentors eight young people weekly.

"I'm 16 and the youth team has definitely helped me grow in faith. Stuart, Dan and Lydia have also played a big part in encouraging me and other young people to expand our gifts and have got us involved in leading worship and Open Space which has given us a lot of opportunities to let God use us and step out in faith."

Rohan, year 12.

Families Ministry

The aim of Families Ministry at both HTCD and STACC is to support families both spiritually and physically so they can have more fun together and be enabled to reach out to their friends and neighbours with the love of Christ. We do this through toddler groups (Messy Mondays and Tuesday Toddlers), parenting courses, Meals Ministry and direct family support. This family support is also Bath-wide as we work with the Council through 'Family Matters' to support any family having a hard time.

In the Covid-19 Pandemic there have been new initiatives a 'Parenting for Faith' course online attended by 50, WhatsApp groups, food parcels and activity packs for children

Senior's Ministry

The Seniors' Ministry is run by the Pastoral Seniors Team, which regularly supports those with long-term pastoral needs and provides a meals ministry for those who are ill. Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic regular events included a Seniors Service with communion and a cooked lunch on the first Thursday of every month. Around 40-50 people attended. Three times a year there was an outreach guest service. The church runs services at two dementia care homes as well as holding a Dementia Friendly Carol service at Christmas.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic the team developed a newsletter for Seniors with testimonies and current events, and a paper Traditional Service with accompanying CD of hymns

Women's Ministry

Before the Covid-19 Pandemic the women's ministry at HTCD and StACC aimed to bring the women in the church closer together and draw women not yet part of the church nearer to faith in Christ. We run events throughout the year including breakfasts, with speakers who cover a wide range of topics, Easter and Christmas evenings and a weekend away.

Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry at HTCD and StACC aimed to build-up and encourage a community of men within the church. There were lots of prayer triplets, a weekly book group, a weekly 'beer n' banter' group, and socials. We tried to organise termly talks and usually have a yearly weekend away.

Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre

HTCD, with support from other churches, St John's Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund, employs a part time Debt Centre Manager and a Debt Coach who works with clients to free them from debt. Through this work people hear about God's love for them.

Theological Book Club

A book club meets about four times each year. The aim is to read books by highly regarded Christian authors which will not only inform and educate but also will facilitate thinking "Christianly" on points of contemporary relevance.

Community Outreach

The church provides several community outreach initiatives mainly run from StACC:

- Foxhill Focus, a weekly drop-in lunch for the vulnerable and lonely with opportunity for prayer and fellowship this has continued with food parcels
- StAction Saturdays, where skips were hired and rubbish and litter was collected from people's gardens and public spaces and car washing.
- Advocacy support
- A specially prepared Welcome leaflet, setting out many of the local facilities has been distributed to families who have moved into the newly built houses on Mulberry Park.

"I have worshipped with my family in the parish for the last 12 years. We attend St Andrews. For us, St Andrews is the heart of our community.
God's love is shared in practical ways through Toddler groups and lunches, Focus and Golden Oldies. Everyone has a place to serve and share their gifts. We feel very connected to the church family and love seeing God's love in action. It is exciting to see more local people and families experience the love of Jesus through the outreach at STACC."

Sarah Bogg, worshipper at StACC.

St James

A small prayer group meets weekly in the Church on a Thursday. A Ladies Bible Study Group led by Bishop John Perry's wife Marilyn meets weekly in term time and is attended by just under half of the female church members.

St Michael's

There are three home groups, two of which study the Bible, and the other focusing on prayer, worship and discussion. We have quarterly 'bring and share' or fundraising lunches, and twice- yearly Men's and Women's breakfasts, with a visiting speaker, which attract people from outside our normal congregation.

Buildings

Holy Trinity Church

The church is 175 years old and was completely renovated around 17 years ago, when the choir stalls and pews were removed and replaced with modern moveable pews.
There is a lovely, light and airy feel to the building. There is a small side chapel and a vestry with an adjoining side room which is used as a crèche and a prayer room. This has allowed the church to be used much more flexibly for example, Seniors' lunches, women's breakfasts and children's holiday clubs.

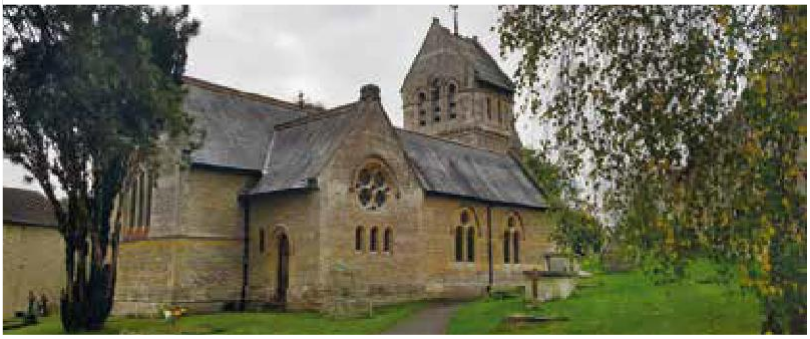
The church's warm welcoming atmosphere is helped by having a well-resourced building. We have a hospitality area for making teas and coffee at the back of the church and an audio-visual control desk. There are two screens at the front of the church with ceiling-mounted data projectors. The church seats 350-400. The churchyard is a pleasant space for summer events, chiefly laid to grass with a few trees.

Church Rooms and Trinity Cottage

The Church Rooms are a hundred yards from the church and were renovated in 2009. They offer good space for our children's and young people's groups as well as a facility that can be rented by the community. There is a large open-plan office, a vicar's office, a large meeting room, small meeting room, large hall with kitchen attached, counselling room, toilets and a lift to the first floor. The office is staffed every weekday and is open every morning. Next door is Trinity Cottage, a three bedroomed terraced house normally let on a commercial basis.

St Andrew's Community Church

The building comprises a large main hall seating 120, a large meeting room seating 34, and a large café area seating 24. There is a small office/ counselling room and an administrative office. The building has a large fully equipped commercial kitchen and a disabled toilet with baby changing facilities. A pleasant, fenced garden is accessed through the large meeting room and there is ample off-street parking.



St James

The church building is recorded as one of the earliest in the Bath Deanery. All that remains of the Norman church, which was built by Bath Priory, is the Norman doorway, dated 1160-1170, and the baptismal font. The stone pulpit is 15th century and the tower, dating from the early 16th century, houses three bells, rung regularly at most services. The architecture of the present building is Neo-Gothic and dates from 1845 when a major restoration was carried out. In 1953 a Lady Chapel was created at the east end of the south aisle.

The church is in the centre of the Conservation Area of South Stoke and is a Grade ll* Listed Building. It is kept open during daylight hours all year round. The churchyard is closed except for the interment of ashes and is now the responsibility of Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) District Council. The churchyard is maintained by BANES under a contract with the Parish Council.

The PCC has recently carried out a re-ordering project, providing a hospitality area in the south-west corner of the church enhanced by the addition of a wall hanging, designed by a resident of South Stoke and made by church members and friends. More recently a toilet has been built in a small extension to the church (by the vestry).

St Michael's

The church, on the edge of Monkton Combe, can seat about 120, expanding to 200 with additional chairs for weddings and the Christmas Carol service. It has an 8-bell carillon, and a conventional 2-manual organ. Victorian pine pews are sited in the nave and south aisles, the north aisle having been cleared to provide a coffee area and children's corner.

In 2013 the congregation and the wider community raised a staggering £80,000 to install a toilet and hospitality suite. Other recent work includes a new lighting system and a renewal of the path to the church. The removal of two large pine trees means that the church is now visible from the road.

The church has a large churchyard, the burial ground for both Monkton Combe and Combe Down. It is closed for burials, except for the interment of ashes. Harry Patch, 'The Last Fighting Tommy' is buried in the churchyard, and his grave attracts much interest.

The Covid-19 Pandemic

The pandemic has been a challenging time for all of us but we have seen the Lord at work during it in many ways

- **Vibrant streamed services** with chat facility, has connected us across the benefice and beyond. People who would be shy of coming into our building have 'tried' our services and the house bound and the self-isolating have been able to join in.
- **The Morning Prayer** on zoom with between 20 and 35 devices joining every morning to pray right through the Covid-19 Pandemic. This has seen many great answers to prayers. Also, relationships have been built up on Zoom, lonely people connected with others, and a whole new community built.
- **Parenting for Faith Course-** 50 parents joined for the whole course online, and many new relationships were built
- **Donations of food -** for meals and food parcels which have been given out from StACC
- **Our Children's Minister** connected with 12 other children's minister across Bath to deliver an online Holiday Club
- **A good Alpha course online**
- **A Creation Care Bible Study-** online through Lent attended by 50
- **Our income from giving increased!**

Relationships with other churches

HTCD and StACC

Bath is a city with many vibrant churches and several local networks for ministers and churches.

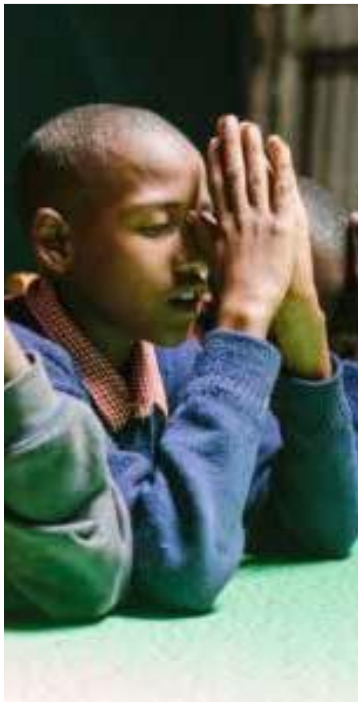
Deanery Synod meets three or four times a year and has a varied programme of speakers.

Bath CAN (Christian Action Network) is an ecumenical grouping which oversees Bath-wide events such as the Good Friday Cross Walk through the city and the twice-yearly well-attended prayer meeting which fills Bath Abbey to share concerns and to pray for the city. It produces a Lent Prayer booklet.

"This is an exciting post at an exciting time in the deanery and the diocese. We have a clear vision to see hundreds of people becoming disciples here in Bath and to see our city transformed by God's loving rule. This varied Benefice has been at the forefront of shaping this vision over a number of years and has a significant role to play in our future as a Deanery. We are grateful for all that has been established, planted and we are praying for further growth and fruitfulness in the years to come. As the local communities of Foxhill and Combe Down change and grow we are looking to see how God will use his church in his mission locally and as a resource for the wider city and region."

Richard Wilson, Rural Dean 2017.

Mission Links



HTCD and StACC

We support a range of long-term and short-term overseas and local mission partners. We commit 10% of HTCD's undesignated general income to mission and our International Mission Team and UK Mission Team provides a general oversight of our engagement with mission partners. We aim to be a substantial support to those who go long- term, not just in terms of finance but in prayer and practical help.

Our current overseas mission partners are:

- David and Heather Sharland in Uganda work in sustainable agriculture and community health, including advising on agricultural training
- A married couple pastor churches in villages in Albania. Holy Trinity have regularly sent mission groups every year since 2012 to help with their work
- Ben and Katy Ray in Tanzania run Neema Crafts, an organisation that provides training and employment opportunities to people with disabilities through the manufacture of handicrafts
- Turning Point Trust is a charity working with vulnerable families and children in the Kibera slum in Kenya, and is supported mainly by StACC

Our current UK mission partners are:

- St Clement's Church, Bradford – Anchor Project – working and engaging with, and supporting some of the most marginalised, vulnerable and isolated in inner city Bradford.

In the Bath area we support a number of organisations including Bath Youth for Christ, Genesis Trust, Street Pastors, and World Sports Ministries.

Many people also get involved in short-term missions every year. We offer small grants and prayer support to short-termers.

Annually in November we hold a Missions Weekend to which we invite guest speakers and seek to raise awareness within the church membership of the importance of mission. We also produce a termly missions diary and hold bimonthly prayer evenings to pray for our mission partners.

St James

Through the Diocesan Zambian Link, we support St Francis Hospital, Katete. This is a longstanding arrangement. Locally, we support The Genesis Trust among other local organisations.

St Michael's

We support various missionary societies, but we are especially close to three missionaries who have long term connections with the church or school who are now serving God at home or abroad: one family has just returned to the UK after 16 years in Nepal, another works for BUILD in Africa, and a third couple work with young people in Central Asia. We also support the Holy Trinity Christians Against Poverty debt centre.

What we can offer you

We are keen that our Senior Associate Minster for growth flourishes in this post, continues to read and explore God's word and has time for personal reflection, prayer and the refreshment of the Holy Spirit.

If you have a family, we want them to thrive and enjoy the neighbourhood. The diocese is purchasing a new house in the Benefice for you.

There is a supportive staff team and an open plan office and a well-organised routine of meetings.

The Diocese is supportive of this new outreach role. The diocese's strap line is 'Living the story, Telling the story.'

Bath Deanery is supportive of the Benefice and there is a sense that the Deanery has a shared vision.

Our Archdeacon Adrian Youings is supportive of the Benefice and this new initiative

We are keen that you keep up with your Continuing Ministerial Development and have time for this. HT is also part of the Post Swanwick Group for vicars of large churches in the Diocese.

We would encourage ministers to have a retreat away from church duties at regular intervals.

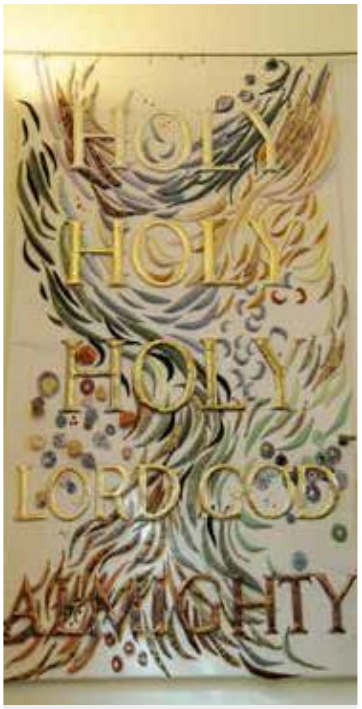
Who to contact?

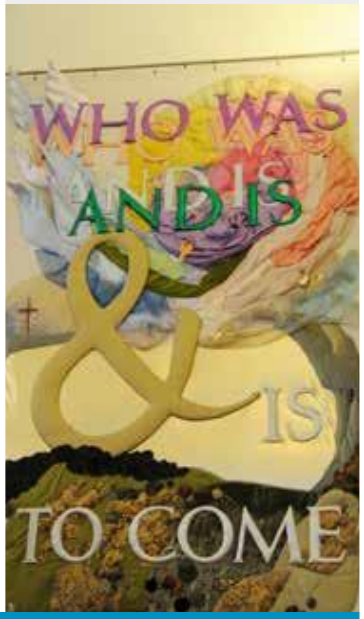
We are confident that God is preparing the person called to minister in our Benefice as we write this profile and we are praying for you as you consider whether God is calling you.

Please feel free to contact the Rev Shawn Swinney or the Churchwardens at HT for any further information through the church office.

Church Office
Church Rooms
2a Avenue Place
The Avenue
Combe Down
Bath BA2 5EE

01225 835835
office@htcd.church





How to apply?

An application pack can be obtained from:
Mrs Denise Blake, PA to the Archdeacon of Bath

01225 873609
denise.blake@bathwells.anglican.org

Useful websites:	Bath Schools
Holy Trinity Combe Down www.htcd.church	**Combe Down CoE Primary** www.combedown.com
Bath Deanery www.bathdeanery.org	**Beechen Cliff Boys Secondary School** www.beechencliff.org.uk
Diocese of Bath and Wells www.bathandwells.org.uk	**Hayesfield Girls Secondary School** www.hayesfield.com
Bath and North East Somerset Council www.bathnes.gov.uk	**Ralph Allen Co-Ed Secondary School** www.ralphallenschool.com
Bath Tourist Office www.visitbath.co.uk	**Monkton School** www.monktoncombeschool.com
Monkton Combe village www.monktoncombe.com	**Prior Park College** www.priorparkcollege.com
Mulberry Park School www.mulberryparket.org.uk	**St Gregory's Catholic Secondary School** www.st-gregorys.org.uk