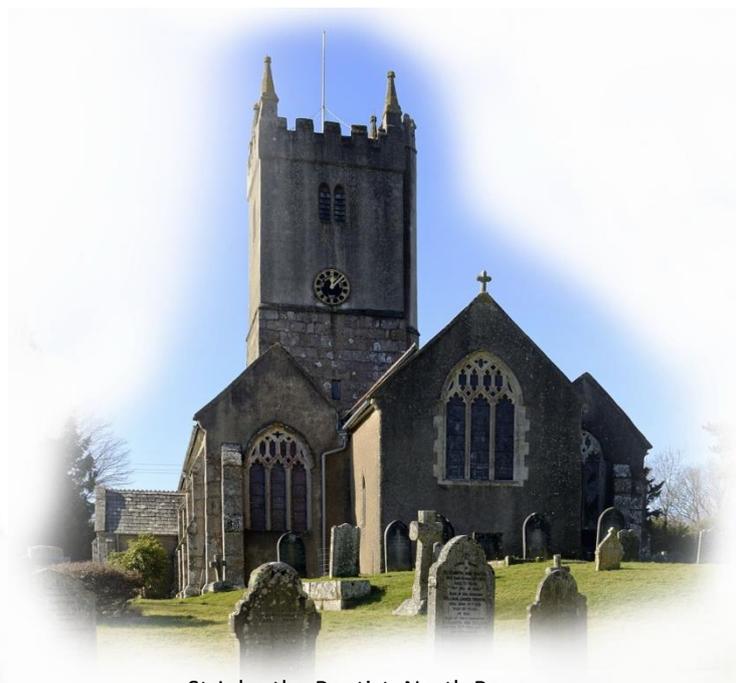


# An Introduction to the United Benefice of Moretonhampstead, comprising the parishes of Moretonhampstead, Manaton, North Bovey and Lustleigh.



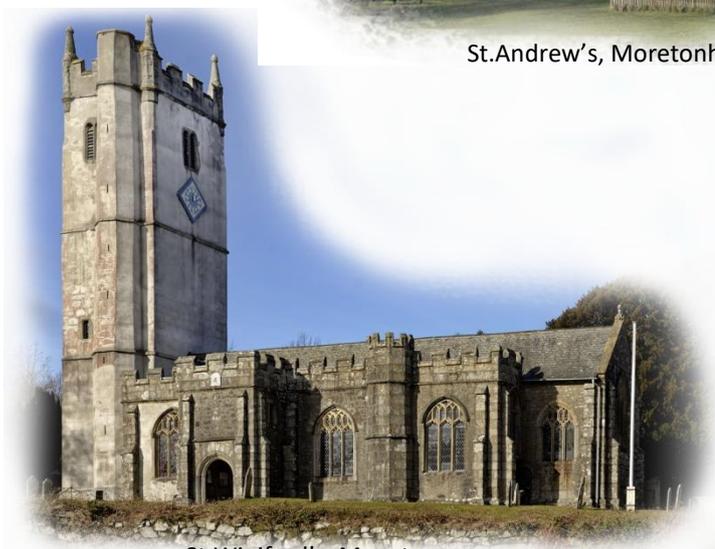
Doccombe Chapel



St. John the Baptist, North Bovey



St. Andrew's, Moretonhampstead



St. Winifred's, Manaton



St. John the Baptist, Lustleigh

April 2019

## INTRODUCTION

Dartmoor with its fringe is a very special place to live and work, no part of it less so than its top right corner encompassing the parishes of Moretonhampstead, Manaton, North Bovey and Lustleigh. These four rural communities, each with its distinct identity, include a mix of people with deep roots in the area and others who have been attracted to it and have chosen to make their lives there.

Following the distinguished ministry of the recently retired incumbent, the churches are in good heart, well resourced, and together with the rest of Moreton Deanery are ready to explore new patterns of mission and ministry in the benefice. Strong, loyal lay leadership and a fierce desire to maintain and develop the role of the parish church at the heart of each community join with a pragmatic, imaginative willingness to explore new ways of working together in a way which offers exceptional potential for a gifted rural practitioner to model fresh approaches to priesthood in the countryside. At the same time, this post will enable the person appointed to offer leadership in a specific area of development across the deanery according to the individual's gifts and experience.

Moreton Deanery is currently well advanced in a deanery review aimed at shaping effective Mission Communities in a context of reducing stipendiary clergy numbers in the countryside. The priest appointed to this dual role will support both the parishes and the deanery in resourcing themselves for the next stage. In turn, he or she will have the strong support of the Rural Dean (Prebendary Mandy Rylands) and a close, cohesive deanery chapter.

This is a fully stipendiary Common Tenure appointment with parochial and deanery responsibilities. The post of Priest-in-Charge has been designated an Interim Ministry post and is for a fixed term of three years, renewable by mutual agreement for one further period of two years. It is possible that after three or five years, as an outcome of the deanery plan there may be a permanent full-time role for the person appointed in a new configuration of parish and/or deanery ministries, though this cannot be guaranteed.

For better or worse, advertised Church of England clergy posts are often described as 'exciting'—but this one really does have the potential to be so for the right person, whether for a wise priest at a later stage of ministry who is looking to focus experience and ideas on a creative piece of work, or someone coming into a first incumbent-status post or in mid-stream with fresh thinking about rural mission to share. If this appeals, I do encourage you to explore it further.

*Douglas Dettmer*  
*Archdeacon of Totnes*



The link to the Benefice website can be found at: [www.moretonbenefice.uk](http://www.moretonbenefice.uk)

## **THE MORETONHAMPSTEAD BENEFICE**

### **Who are we?**

- a welcoming, friendly Moorland benefice within Dartmoor National Park
- a united benefice which works well together while keeping our own individual parish traditions
- proactive congregations, fully integrated in the lives of the communities they serve
- a benefice supported by Readers and other lay leaders and by a part-time administrator

### **Who are you?**

- a priest with experience of rural life, able to engage with all members of our communities
- a leader of vision who will help us to achieve the aims set out in our Mission Action Plan (attached)
- an enabler who will support us in building on the relationship with our primary school in Moreton and inspire involvement of families in church activities
- a man or woman of ambition for our benefice and the wider deanery
- someone who relishes muddy boots, tea and cake, and local pubs (with the ability to reverse along narrow lanes!)

### **What is on offer?**

A full-time, interim post (initially for 3 years) which offers an exciting opportunity to work in vibrant moorland parishes along with a pilot scheme to support and develop Deanery life.

### **Deanery Part of Moretonhampstead Benefice Interim Post**

We are looking for someone to help the deanery in preparing for the changes that will happen with the deanery plan. This will involve being a significant contributor to any strategic planning; (together with the rest of Chapter and Deanery Synod). The successful candidate will be able to offer specific help resourcing, encouraging and promoting lay ministry, which is one of our identified priorities. The focus will depend on the skills and experience that a candidate brings but might involve:

- Training lay people in the leading of worship
- Training lay people to lead small groups
- Encouraging Mission Communities to set up regular catechumenate courses, e.g. Alpha, Start, Pilgrim
- Helping people to grow in confidence about their discipleship, e.g. in faith sharing

It is envisaged that the person appointed will complement (and not duplicate) the assistance we receive from Diocesan Officers; for example helping Churches towards establishing sustainable patterns of ministry, through understanding the local context.

The person appointed will be responsible to the Rural Dean and he or she will produce a specific job description (together with the Rural Dean) before being licensed.

The time allocation between the parish and deanery parts will inevitably need flexibility, but as a guideline, it is likely to be on a sliding scale, working out roughly at a 60/40 ratio.

## United Benefice Worship Rota for Regular Sunday Services

Week	Time	Church	Service
<b>1</b>	9.30 am	Moretonhampstead	Informal
	9.30 am	Manaton	Holy Communion Common Worship
	10.00 am	N.Bovey	Informal
	11.00 am	Lustleigh	Matins BCP
<b>2</b>	8.00 am	Doccombe	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30 am	Moretonhampstead	Holy Communion Common Worship
	10.00 am	Manaton	All Age Informal
	11.00 am	Lustleigh	Holy Communion BCP
<b>3</b>	8.00 am	Moretonhampstead	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30 am	N.Bovey	Holy Communion Common Worship
	9.30 am	Moretonhampstead	Service of the Word
	11.00 am	Manaton	Holy Communion Common Worship
	6.00 pm	Lustleigh	Evensong BCP
<b>4</b>	9.30 am	Moretonhampstead	Holy Communion Common Worship
	11.00 am	Lustleigh	Informal
	6.00 pm	Manaton	Evensong BCP
<b>5</b>	10.30 am	Rotation in the four parishes	United Benefice Holy Communion

The rota is prepared each quarter by the Benefice administrator in conjunction with the minister, readers and churchwardens and names the people leading the services. The United Benefice Service is normally planned by a group of lay people from each parish and has developed over the last two years.

One of our priorities in the Benefice Mission Action Plan is to improve the inclusiveness of the Benefice Service in order that we build a strong foundation for working together in the future as one body across all four parishes.

We are fortunate in having a retired priest in Manaton and other priests from elsewhere (some of them retired) who assist with Communion services. The services which do not require a priest are led by one of our two Readers or two Readers Emeriti, or by a churchwarden or other lay person.

### Other Services

We also hold different services for special occasions such as in Holy Week, Ascension Day (on a hill somewhere in the Benefice), Rogation Sunday (round the Parish in Lustleigh), All Age Worship walk in Manaton and All Souls Day. These have included Compline, Iona-based services and New Patterns for Worship.

### Finances

All four parishes pay their Common Fund request in full. To view our most recent accounts, follow the link on the Benefice website: [www.moretonbenefice.uk](http://www.moretonbenefice.uk)

# Parish of St. Andrew, Moretonhampstead with Doccombe

## The Community

Moretonhampstead (known locally as Moreton) is a former market town with a population of around 1800 people; it sits on the eastern edge of Dartmoor and is known as the “Gateway to the High Moor”, the upland areas of the surrounding Dartmoor National Park. It is a vibrant and busy place, 15 miles from Exeter, surrounded by beautiful agricultural land with Doccombe and neighbouring smaller hamlets. Many families have been here for generations but there has also been a steady number moving to the town over the years; more new housing is planned moving forward.



Moreton people are employed in a variety of businesses and services, and in farming. Many are involved in the tourist

industry; a number of people travel to work in Exeter and Newton Abbot. There is a good mix of shops, pubs, hotels and cafes together with a Tourist Information Centre catering for a busy tourist season which brings visitors from home and abroad.

There is a fully equipped sports centre which offers amongst many other things tennis, bowls, and pilates and spinning classes. Golf and cricket clubs are on our doorstep. A large number of leisure groups include a flower club, riding club, music and singing groups and many more to suit all age groups. The Variety Group produces an annual pantomime and our carnival is a very popular summer event. There is also an arts centre, public library, a history society, youth club and active scout group. A large Parish Hall and Community Club, both managed by volunteers, provides space for leisure activities and meetings.



Moreton has a modern health centre, and NEDCare and Morecare provide key services to residents receiving care and support at home. There is also a privately owned residential care home in the centre of the town, Coppelia House, which provides care for up to 30 service users. Residents wishing to receive communion do so each month and other pastoral visits are made by members of the ministry team and church members.

## The School

A primary school provides for up to 150 children; a pre-school is also sited on the school premises. Older children go to South Dartmoor Community College in Ashburton while others attend private and independent schools in Exeter or Newton Abbot. South Dartmoor Community College and Exeter College provide sixth form education.



## St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's is a striking granite church in a prominent position. Built mainly in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries with the addition of a chancel, vestries and organ loft during the 1903 restoration. There is a full peal of bells.

The Friends of St. Andrew's work tirelessly to raise money for the maintenance of this beautiful building and have recently raised funds to meet the cost of repairs to the belfry and re-furbishing of the bells.



Our communion service is with vestments, and the Sacrament is Reserved. A morning prayer service takes place during week days. The community is supportive of special services such as the Christmas Crib service, Christingle, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday. The regular church services are set out in the Benefice section but in addition there are prayer and Lenten groups, a Julian Group, and home communions which include the sacraments being taken to our residential home and to the Sports Centre for senior members of the community. During Holy Week compline is said and there is a Procession of Witness on Good Friday.



We are encouraging the community to use the church for concerts and similar although this is in its infancy.

A monthly Messy Church is held in conjunction with the Community Church and the school children have also visited the church as part of their religious studies. The Rector visits the school and has taken assembly on occasions.



The church has been fully engaged with a number of community issues from Moreton Action on Plastics to working to bring a young Syrian family, currently living in a refugee camp, to live here in Moretonhampstead in peace and security.

The PCC annually supports donations to charities which over the past year includes The Children's Society, the Amos Trust, Mercy Ships and gifts from the Christmas Sleigh to the Women's Refuge and Salvation Army. The church also supports Traidcraft on a weekly basis in church and at the monthly charity market.

Our average attendance at Eucharist services is 42 and at Service of the Word is 24.

In 2018 there were 59 parishioners on our electoral roll.

During 2018 there were three baptisms, five weddings, and eleven funerals held at the parish church; in addition five funerals were held at the crematorium in Exeter.



## Doccombe Chapel

Two miles east of Moreton lies the hamlet of Doccombe and a long established chapel sits in the grounds of a local farm. Communion is celebrated on a monthly basis and festivals such as Harvest and the Christmas Carol Service are important occasions in the life of the community.



## The Rectory

The Rectory is a modern four-bedroom house in Moretonhampstead, with a southerly outlook over the town towards high moorland with Haytor on the horizon. On the ground floor the front door opens to a small hallway with a study and cloakroom, and a door leading through to the main downstairs living area, comprising a dining room/sitting room/kitchen leading off one another. There are also two bedrooms, one with an en suite, and a separate shower. The kitchen has a separate utility area with an external door leading to the front driveway. The sitting room has a sunny southern aspect with floor to ceiling glass patio doors leading on to a small sheltered patio and seating area, and a step down to the garden. Upstairs there are two bedrooms with hand basins, and a bathroom with a separate shower.



Externally, the front of the house consists of a driveway with room for adjacent parking, and a garage. The garden surrounds the other three sides of the house, and has a small vegetable plot, a Spring garden, two apple trees and a strip of lawn. The southern and easterly walls of the house are extensively covered by the attractive foliage of Virginia Creeper during the warmer months of the year. A combination of mature hedgerows, shrubs and trees ensure a good degree of privacy.



## Parish of St. Winifred, Manaton

### The Community

Manaton is a moorland parish in a beautiful part of Dartmoor with direct access to good walking country and other pursuits including horse riding and rock climbing on the tors. The village itself is divided into two main parts with outlying hamlets. The lower part includes the Kestor Inn, while the upper part contains the church, church recreation field, village green and the Parish Hall.



There are very few people who have lived in Manaton all their lives, some of the population having moved into the area to retire, but there are a number of working people with young families. There are several livestock farms in the parish, though some have been broken up and farmed only in a small way.



For a population of about 315, Manaton is a very busy place socially. A major annual event is the Show and Fair held in August in the church field. Other social activities include the monthly village market and coffee morning, the Women's Institute, a Rifle Club and a Cricket Club. There is a small but effective branch of The Royal British Legion who arrange a successful Poppy Appeal and organise the Remembrance Sunday service each year.

### The Church

St Winifred's is a Grade 1 listed building, built around 1400. The highlight of the interior is a very fine late C15 screen, with all the saints' faces gouged out at the time of the Reformation. Extensive work was carried out in 2012/13 after wet rot and beetle was found to be attacking the foundations of the screen.



We also have a fine Victorian reredos which had restoration and repainting carried out in 2013.

The bells and frames were completely overhauled and repaired in 2014. A new lighting system was installed in 2009 and a loop system in 2018. The usual ongoing repairs needed to an ancient building are carried out as required.

St Winifred's is the beneficiary of the Southcott Charity which provides a regular income mainly to assist with the cost of maintaining and insuring the church building. The annual Show and Fair also provides funds towards the maintenance of the church fabric. The Rector and Churchwardens are ex-officio trustees of the Southcott Charity and the Church Field Charity with other appointed trustees.



The PCC is currently discussing with their architect plans for an extension to provide a lavatory and small kitchen, coupled with reordering of the interior of the church to provide an open space suitable for less formal services and more storage facilities. The heating system will also need to be reviewed.

We have a good team of bell ringers who ring on many Sundays subject to availability. There is a rota of cleaners, flower arrangers and volunteers to open and close the Church which is always open during daylight hours except in severe weather conditions.



The average attendance at regular Sunday services in 2018 was as follows:

Holy Communion..... 22,  
All Age Worship..... 23,  
Evensong..... 13.

In 2018 there were 45 parishioners on the electoral roll.

On average we have 3 baptisms, 2 weddings, one funeral and one burial of ashes during the year.

Much larger attendances were recorded for the major festivals and baptisms (which all took place within a regular Sunday service).

There is a monthly prayer group held in the church, a weekly home group and a monthly home discussion group (mainly weekly in Lent and Advent).



## Parish of St. John the Baptist, North Bovey

### The Community

North Bovey is a pretty village within the Dartmoor National Park, of mainly thatched cottages arranged round a village green. It is part of a large, rural parish containing many isolated houses, hamlets and hill farms and with a population of about 220. We have a church, a parish hall and a public house but sadly, we lost our school and shop some years ago.



We have a new Women's Institute in the village and 2 book groups, all of which meet monthly. Parishioners meet on a regular basis for early drinks in the Ring of Bells pub on Tuesday and Friday evenings. A monthly market takes place in the Parish Hall, when local providers sell their produce, which ranges from cosmetics and jewellery to locally reared meat and home-made preserves. This also gives opportunity for local people to meet together over coffee and cake. There is a Conservation Group which helps with outdoor projects throughout the Parish. Bowls, tennis and golf are nearby, there is a Sports Centre in Moretonhampstead and with Dartmoor on our doorstep, we have wonderful places to walk, ride and cycle.

The North Bovey Village Fair takes place annually in July; a traditional occasion drawing people from far and wide, the proceeds of which go to the church, the Parish Hall and local charities. The Friends of St. John's holds fundraising events 3 or 4 times a year which are well-attended and help maintain the fabric of the building.



### The Church

St. John the Baptist church stands just off the green in the centre of the village. The building itself is mainly 14th and 15th



century and has been well-maintained over the years; indeed with a large grant some 3 years ago, we were able to re-roof our lovely church building as well as having



conservation work done on windows and walls. In future, we hope to be able to provide toilet facilities and a kitchenette, both useful additions for community events held in the church.



Sheep graze the churchyard, thus helping to cut the grass. The congregations consist largely of pro-active middle-aged people. Numbers are swelled by holiday-makers during the summer months

and by the major services of Christmas, Easter and Harvest when the church can be full. Short prayer meetings are held in the church weekly on Thursdays. There are not enough young people in the parish to justify a Sunday School or Youth Group but we have an Informal service once a month to which all are welcome and attracts some families. Our children go to school in Moretonhampstead for Primary education and to Ashburton Community College at Secondary level.

Our average attendance for Sunday services in 2018 was about 15. In 2018 there were 32 parishioners on our Church Electoral Roll.

On average we have 2 Marriages and Wedding Blessings, occasional baptisms and 2 funerals per year.



## Parish of St. John the Baptist, Lustleigh

### The Community

Lustleigh village lies in the foothills of Dartmoor, set amidst glorious surroundings and its beauty attracts many tourists and walkers alike. It has a population of about 650 people and boasts a village shop, tea rooms, pub and well-equipped Village Hall.

The village is very active and lively and has many organisations within it including the Local History Society, Garden Club, Rifle Club, Drama Group, W.I., several book clubs, Village Choir and a voluntary Association of Drivers to name but a few. There is also a busy and well attended Forest Pre-School for ages 2-5 years. An annual traditional May Day celebration attracts many visitors and The Lustleigh Show held each year on August Bank Holiday draws thousands of visitors.



### The Church

The Grade 1 listed Parish church, whose origins date back to Saxon times, is situated right in the centre of the village. The chancel is 13<sup>th</sup> century while the rest of the building is 15<sup>th</sup> century/early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The rood screen is mid 16<sup>th</sup> century and there are medieval effigies in wall recesses. An ancient tomb slab dating from 550-600, previously on the floor of the south porch, is now positioned on the wall near the Norman font. Many visitors are attracted by the church's history and beauty and often comment on the peaceful atmosphere they encounter.



The church also owns The Old Vestry (formerly a small village school built in the early 1800s by Parson William Davey) which is situated in the corner of the churchyard. This has a downstairs room, which is available to rent, together with a small kitchen area and toilet. Upstairs there are 2 rooms, one of which houses the Village Archive which has won a national award and is run by highly-motivated volunteers. This opens to the public twice weekly and pays a rent to the church.



The church has full central heating which was installed 3 years ago and we also have a hearing loop and sound system. There is an enthusiastic team of bell ringers and we also have a small dedicated church choir which has some very talented musicians within it. There are many volunteers on the Flower Arranging Rota and Cleaning Rota as well as several volunteers who mow the churchyard.

Our main aim is to engage more closely with the community at large and we would like to have a mid-week service/prayer meeting. We already have a Pub Faith Group which meets monthly for those wishing to explore Christianity further and we have had some success over the last 2 or 3 years with holding services outside the church which have attracted people who do not worship regularly. We would like to build on this and would hope we can attract a

bigger congregation. Recently, we have become a partner church with *Open Doors* and sent £1400 to them from collections at our Christmas Services and Village Carol Singing nights. Usually, we send our collections from the major services to various charities.

While we have a full church at Christmas and good congregations at Easter and Harvest, the average attendance for other services throughout the month is as follows:

Matins.....20,  
Sung Eucharist.....25,  
Evensong..... 18,  
Informal Service..... 17.

In 2018 there were 57 parishioners on the electoral roll.

On average we have 2 Weddings, 2 baptisms and 3 funerals during the year.

Our main strength is beginning to be a central part of the community which it had not been for some time. There is a lot of good will towards the church in spite of a relatively small congregation. We would like to use the church more as a village resource and be more open to new ideas and types of services.

Our main weakness is that while there are not many children in the village, we fail to engage with the ones we do know and this is an area we are keen to improve upon.

