

# House for Duty Priest

St James, Ansty  
St Andrew's, Shilton  
Warwickshire



February 2025

# Background to post

St James, Ansty and St Andrew's, Shilton serve two picturesque and community-focused Warwickshire villages to the north of Coventry, on the edge of Rugby borough. The area offers a peaceful rural atmosphere and lots of local amenities. The villages have excellent transport links to much of the country, and are surrounded by fields and farmland.

The Parishes of Ansty and Shilton have been linked in different ways for the best part of 1000 years and now seek to renew their partnership alongside the neighbouring parish of St James Bulkington with the ministry of a **house for duty priest**.

It is envisaged that the Vicar of Bulkington (Revd Charles Higgins) would become Priest-in-Charge of Ansty and Shilton, releasing the House for Duty Priest to lead on ministry in the parishes unincumbered by some parish administration. In addition, we hope that collaboration and mutual support between the parishes would be fruitful in each village. The clergy team at Bulkington currently comprises a full-time Incumbent and full-time Assistant Curate in year 2 of their training.

For the past decade or so, the parishes have been ministered to by a priest of The Society, but in 2023 both parishes decided to rescind their resolutions. At present the Churches have separate PCCs but work closely with one another, enjoying good support from local communities. During the interregnum, we have been grateful for the ministry of a wide variety of clergy. We look forward to the next chapter in our journey with God and one another.



# Church Buildings & Churchyards

Both Church buildings are small, though witness to a storied history, and both have Grade II\* listed status.

## St James, Ansty

St James, with its open Churchyard containing 6 commonwealth war graves, lies  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the centre of Ansty, along a single track with a small car park by the Church. The Church is surrounded by farmland, the Oxford canal, and our neighbour, Ansty Hall Hotel. There is a splendid vista to the south of St James, taking in the Three Spires of the Coventry skyline on a good day. The stone building is in good repair, and has a small vestry that doubles up as a store room. The Church is always well cared for and cleaned by a dedicated team of volunteers. The peel of bells was recently restored after having been silent for many years and they are now struck electronically to sound the hours and chime for services. The Church is open often we try to encourage new members of the Church family. Three annual open days are held to coincide with those at Ansty Hall Hotel next door.



Quinquennial reports for both Churches are available on request

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# St Andrew's, Shilton

The Church, and closed Churchyard, enjoys a prominent position in the centre of the village. Inside it has a charm and intimacy that gives a sense of warmth and friendliness. Many hundreds of years have brought unique architectural features – sumptuous woodwork, wrought-iron work, and much more besides. The tower has a ring of six bells rung regularly at services, practice nights (Fridays), and for weddings.



There is a recently refurbished organ in good working order, along with an excellent acoustic for worship and concerts. Between 2002 and 2013 the Church and wider parish raised the funds to replace the roof, install an accessible toilet and kitchen.

The accompanying social space in the old vestry is used for open days, social and community events. Foodbank donations are collected regularly throughout the year.



# Worship



Both St Andrew's and St James are communities centred on the Eucharist. Worship tends to be traditional yet fairly informal, with organ-led music. Currently regular Sunday worship happens at 11:30am on the pattern below. There is an average attendance of 10-12. Shilton has an electoral roll of 16, and Ansty of 13. Services and other events are advertised in a local magazine called Basis, which has a wide local circulation.

## Regular Services

| 1st Sunday     | 2nd Sunday          | 3rd Sunday   | 4th Sunday          | 5th Sunday                      |
|----------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| St James Ansty | St Andrew's Shilton | St James Ansty<br>Evensong at St Andrew's, Shilton (lay-led) | St Andrew's Shilton | Shared between the two parishes |





# Worship Beyond Sunday:

## St James Ansty



Average number of occasional offices per year::

| Baptisms | Weddings  | Funerals |
|----------|---|----------|
| 4        | 4 (6 weddings; 1 renewal of vows booked for 2025) | 2        |

Harvest Festival is held on the First Sunday of October, with the Church often decorated by the Barnacle Brownies, with Art and Craft displays. All goods donated are given to the Trussell Trust.

The Annual Christmas Carol Service is very well attended. Readers are drawn from across the village, supported by the "Community Voices Ladies Choir", and followed by refreshments in the Orangery at Ansty Hall, courtesy of the hotel.

On 17th March 2024 we welcomed the Acting Bishop of Coventry, The Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, to conduct a confirmation service for 5 candidates. The service was followed by refreshments at Ansty Hall, where we enjoyed getting to know Bishop Ruth better.

On 1st December 2024, we held a service of rededication for the Bells of St James, which was enjoyed by many residents of the parish, and followed by refreshments at Ansty Hall.

During June 2025, the Diocesan Ordination Retreat is due to be held at Ansty Hall Hotel, and St James will be the venue for the ordinands' worship and prayer. We have been honoured to welcome the retreat to the parish for the past 3 years.

# Worship Beyond Sunday: St Andrew's Shilton



Average number of occasional offices per year::

| Baptisms | Weddings | Funerals |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 2        | 2        | 3        |

We have partnered with a local choir to run special services of Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas and Easter 'Songs of Praise', when the church is at full capacity. Other additional services have included Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Patronal Festival and Midnight Mass.





# The Parishes

## St James, Ansty

Once a solely agricultural community, the 2021 census shows that Ansty continues as a small rural community, with a mixture of historic and a few recently built properties. The parish has a population of around 300. Ansty has a Social Club, a Pub, a Golf Course, and a playing field.

The most significant relationship is with our neighbour, Ansty Hall Hotel, which we hope the new priest will continue to build on. The hotel often direct those couples wishing to marry in Church to St James, and have displayed publicity about wider Church services and events, as well as weddings, in the past.





# St Andrew's Shilton

Shilton has a population of around 600, with a further 200 living in part of the village of Barnacle, which is also part of the parish. There is a cross-section of ages living in the village, but the largest demographic is those in middle-age upwards and this is reflected as a whole, though not exclusively, in the congregation.

The Church stands at the centre of the village, opposite the Shilton Arms pub and next to the Shilton Garage, a family-owned and run business. The Church has enjoyed an excellent relationship with The Shilton Arms, with their generosity extending to the use of their car park and collaboration in running the village fete alongside the Church – the chance to enjoy a bird's eye view of the community from the Church tower was greatly appreciated! We hope to build on this by running some monthly coffee mornings in 2025. The local Village Hall has a wide variety of facilities and the adjoining sports pavilion and play park are well used by sports teams and dog walkers alike. There is a similarly well-resourced village hall in Barnacle, which also supports the Church wherever possible.

- • The village has a Baptist Church, and a pre-school nursery, also called St
- • Andrew's. The previous incumbent developed a good link with the nursery,
- • something that we hope the new priest will reignite.
- • On the outskirts of the village, there are two small industrial estates.





# Finances

## St James, Ansty

The parish share for 2025 will amount to £3600 and, although finances are sometimes a challenge, we hope to meet this through the generosity of all those who support the Church. We offer the opportunity to give in all our regular services and we now have a card reader to provide additional opportunities for giving. During the previous year, we secured a grant towards the restoration of our bells and created a restricted fund, in collaboration with the Diocese, for the preservation of our historic chancel. All administration is undertaken by our dedicated treasurer on a voluntary basis.



Website

# St Andrew's Shilton



| Income  | Outgoings     |
|---|---------------|
| Church service collections and planned giving | Parish share  |
| Fundraising Events and 'Lucky Numbers'        | Maintenance   |
| Philip Andrews Trust                          | Running costs |
| One-off Donations                             |               |
| <b>Unrestricted reserves 31/12/24</b>         | <b>£6,141</b> |
| <b>Restricted reserves 31/12/24</b>           | <b>£2,110</b> |



St Andrew's Church has a lottery known as 'Lucky Numbers', now in its 21st year. It raises over £1000 per annum, which is used to pay for the Church insurance. It is supported by people from around Shilton, Ansty, and Barnacle.

We also benefit from income from the Philip Andrews Trust, an independent trust invested with CBF, which is restricted to general church upkeep. In recent years, St Andrews has successfully raised significant monies for repairs and restoration (replacement roof, kitchen, toilet block, lead window repair and carpet removal). Monies came from grants and considerable community support from all three villages.

The Shilton & Ansty Trust was set up following the historic sale of Shilton School to administer the proceeds of the sale. The Trustees represent the Parish Councils of Shilton & Ansty and the churches of St Andrew and St James. The Trust has supported both churches on a number of occasions.

Full accounts for both parishes are available on request



# Looking Ahead Our New Priest

## St James, Ansty

St James feels called to step further into its vocation as a parish Church, while developing an excellent wedding ministry, as we seek to deepen our relationships with our neighbours.

We are aware of a number of people in our parish who are housebound and we would like to be equipped to further our pastoral care, and our support to those who are bereaved.

Because of its semi-rural location St James can sometimes seem “on the edge” of the community. We are seeking a priest who will treat this as a gift.





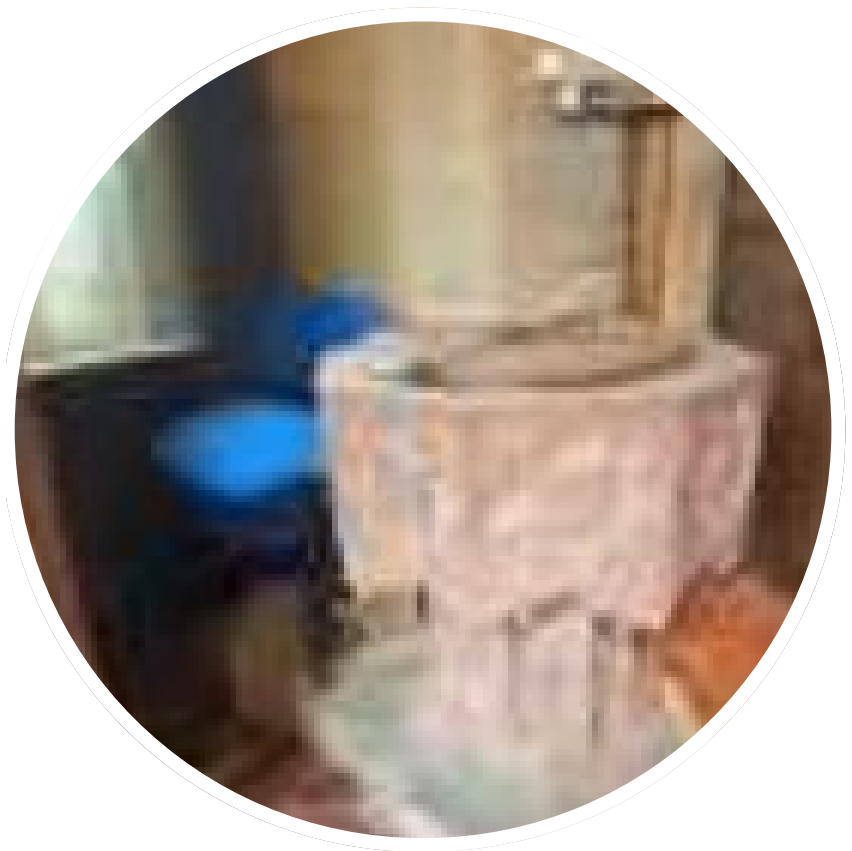
# St Andrew's Shilton

We recently spent some time as a PCC, and wider Church family, expressing the values we wish to lie at the heart of St Andrew's as we head into what is next. These can be summarised with the words **Holistic, Inclusive and Spiritual**:

**Holistic:** A visible Church, living Sunday every day.

**Inclusive:** A growing Church, inviting others to grow with us

**Spiritual:** A worshipping Church, praising the Lord



Do you feel called to join us?

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DIOCESE OF  
COVENTRY

*The Diocese of Coventry invites applications for the role of*

## **ASSOCIATE MINISTER (HFD)**

### **Ansty & Shilton**

St James Ansty and St Andrew's Shilton serve two picturesque and community-focused Warwickshire villages north of Coventry, with a range of local amenities and excellent transport links to the majority of the country.

We are seeking a House for Duty priest who will enjoy focusing on the heart of parish ministry and become an integral part of life in the two villages. We wish to appoint a priest who will:

- Be a visible and known presence in the local and wider communities, within and beyond the Church
- Be able to build relationships with people of all ages and experiences
- Recognise and encourage potential in lay ministry, leading us in worship, spiritual growth, and outreach in our parishes
- Be creative, and comfortable within a range of worship styles and a broad expression of faith
- Embrace the vision of the Church communities, and build on them using their own gifts, in their own way.
- Collaborate with partner Churches across Bulkington, Shilton, and Ansty.

The Vicar of Bulkington will become Priest-in-Charge of Shilton and Ansty, releasing our House for Duty colleague to focus on the heart of parish ministry unincumbered by some of the administration.

*Informal conversations very welcome with the Revd Charles Higgins, Vicar of Bulkington on 07954 072164, ([vicar@stjameschurchbulkington.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjameschurchbulkington.org.uk))*

Closing Date for Applications: **noon 7th March**

Interviews: **1 & 2 April**

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/about/vacancies/clergy-hr.php>