



ONE FAITH - THREE CHURCHES - ONE TEAM

# PARISH PROFILE

March 2025

BARFORD , SHERBOURNE , WASPERTON - ONE TEAM



# Area Dean

## The Reverend Patrick Taylor

### An Introduction to the Fosse Deanery

- *The Deanery comprises the large town and parishes in and around Stratford Upon Avon, a large village – Wellesbourne, and lots of smaller rural parishes. The Deanery currently has 8.5 stipendiary clergy posts, several self supporting and retired clergy and 2 curates who serve the 8 benefices with their 25 parishes. We see the role of the deanery as supporting the mission and ministry of the parishes in the deanery, especially through the collegiality of the clergy.*
- *We support one another through*
  - *Monthly Chapter meetings beginning with a eucharist and then lunch*
  - *Co-operation and generosity in sharing resources*
  - *Trying new ways of doing things as we re-imagine rural and town ministry for today.*
- *We are currently in the final stages of implementing our long-term Deanery Plan. This has been largely shaped in response to the missional opportunities of new housing developments elsewhere in the deanery but also by a desire to work in collaboration across parish boundaries as we support one another. The churches in the Barford Benefice have worked well together for many years and there is a real commitment to continue under the leadership of their new vicar. We look forward to welcoming a priest with passion for extending God's kingdom in these rural communities*



# Person Specification



*All our three churches are earnestly praying in hope for an enthusiastic spiritual leader who is prepared to invest in rural ministry, leading us forward in faith, love and a commitment to the wider community life.*

*So, to paraphrase, are you a spiritual leader that can:*

- *help us develop a closer relationship with God?*
- *bring relevance to the scriptures to help us deal with today's challenges?*
- *share a passion and understanding for rural ministry and its specific characteristics?*
- *be a visible and hands on inspirational leader?*
- *work collaboratively with us to achieve all of this?*

*Please note that an enhanced DBS disclosure will be required for this post.*



# PERSON SPECIFICATION- GOING DEEPER

*Helping Us Develop a Closer Relationship with God*

*We are blessed with a faithful and engaged congregation across our three churches, offering a variety of worship styles, from Holy Communion and Evensong to Family Services and Bible study groups. We want to continue deepening our faith while also welcoming new people into our church communities.*

*Our strong relationship with the Barford St Peters CoE Primary School provides an exciting opportunity to nurture faith from an early age, through school services and engagement with pupils and families. We are also keen to grow our ministry with younger adults and those less familiar with church. We hope to find a leader who will encourage and inspire us in this journey, helping people of all ages grow in their faith and feel part of a thriving church family.*

# PERSON SPECIFICATION- GOING DEEPER

***Bringing Relevance to the scriptures to Help Us  
Navigate Today's World***

***We believe scripture offers hope, wisdom, and strength, but we recognise that many people—both inside and outside our churches—struggle to see how faith connects with modern challenges. We need a leader who can help us apply biblical teaching to real-life situations, equipping us to live out our faith with confidence.***

***As society changes, so does the role of the church. We are looking for someone who can encourage our existing congregation while also making faith accessible to those who may not yet see church as relevant to their lives. If you are someone who can communicate the Gospel in a way that speaks into everyday concerns and inspires people to explore faith in new ways, we would love to hear from you.***





# PERSON SPECIFICATION- GOING DEEPER

## *A Passion for Rural Ministry and Community Life*

*Community is at the heart of our benefice. The church plays a key role in village life, not only through worship but also through fundraising events, seasonal celebrations, and acts of service. We want to build on this, strengthening our ties with the wider village and making the church a place where everyone feels welcome.*

*Like many rural churches, we have smaller congregations and an ageing church population, but our villages are also evolving, bringing fresh opportunities to connect with new residents. We need a priest-in-charge who understands the rhythm of rural life, values deep-rooted traditions, and is excited by the prospect of engaging with the whole community.*

# PERSON SPECIFICATION- GOING DEEPER

## *Being a Visible and Approachable Leader*

*For us, leadership isn't just about Sundays—it's about being a recognisable and involved presence in village life. We are looking for someone who will be seen and known across our three villages, engaging not just with church members but with the wider community.*

*This means being present at village events, leading school assemblies, making time for pastoral visits, and working alongside others on community projects. The opportunity to serve as an ex-officio school governor provides another way to strengthen our relationship with local families.*

*With a rectory provided within the benefice, this is a place where our new priest-in-charge can truly put down roots. We hope to find someone who will embrace this as more than a role—becoming a valued and familiar presence in our villages.*





# One Team, Worshipping Together



- *As a benefice, we share in worship and community life, supporting one another while maintaining the unique character of each of our churches. A keyway we come together is through the monthly Benefice Service, which rotates between our three parishes and offers a shared opportunity for Holy Communion and fellowship.*
- *During the interregnum, our Associate Minister has worked tirelessly to keep everyone cared for and supported. We are fortunate to have three Readers who serve across the benefice, while each church has its own dedicated Churchwardens, volunteers and PCC, ensuring strong local leadership and active involvement in church life. With a solid foundation in place, we look forward with hope to the future, welcoming a new leader who will journey with us in faith and fellowship.*
- *Beyond our regular services, our churches host fundraising events, Lent lunches, concerts, and social gatherings, strengthening our sense of belonging not just within our congregations, but across the benefice and within the wider village communities. Hospitality is at the heart of our churches, with coffee served after services and regular opportunities for fellowship, creating a warm and welcoming space for conversation and connection.*



# BARFORD

Background

History

Key takeaways







March 2025

# BARFORD PARISH CHURCH

- *The Domesday Book of 1085 records a priest in Barford, suggesting a place of worship existed even earlier. The Saxon church was rebuilt in the 13th century and remained until it became unsafe, leading to reconstruction in 1844–1845 in a plain Victorian style. The original tower, which still bears the mark of a cannon ball fired by Parliamentarians en route to the Battle of Edge Hill, is the only surviving feature of the earlier building.*
- *St. Peter's has been a church of prayer, celebration, and remembrance for centuries, with many visitors commenting on its sense of tranquillity. Services are held every Sunday, including Holy Communion twice a month, a monthly Benefice Service, and a Family Service. Baptisms take place within the main services. The churchyard includes a Garden of Remembrance and a burial extension.*
- *We involve the village school in Family Services as often as possible, and pupils participate in Harvest, Christmas, Remembrance, Advent, Lent, and end-of-term services. We have also successfully introduced congregation members sharing their faith and work, enriching worship with personal reflections.*
- *The Tower houses six bells, which are popular with visiting ringers. At present there is only a small band of village ringers and are therefore only rung occasionally. They are used by the Coventry Guild of Bellringers for training, with potential for revival in the future.*
- *Over the years, St. Peter's has hosted many varied fundraising events, Lent lunches, BBQ, Saturday coffee mornings, open gardens, concerts, and even pancake races for children.*
- *St. Peter's is supported by a committed team of volunteers, with rotas for welcomers, readers, prayer leaders, and assistance with the chalice. With two Churchwardens, a deputy, three Readers, and an active PCC, there is a strong core of worshippers determined to maintain and enrich the church's ministry. As we look to the future with hope, we welcome a leader who will work alongside us, nurturing our strengths and helping us continue to grow as a vibrant church at the heart of the community.*



# Barford, St Peters COE Primary School

- *Barford St Peter's is a single-form entry school with around 200 pupils and a pre-school. It has a strong reputation for high standards, excellent behaviour, and close community ties. More information can be found at <https://www.barfordstpeters.org>*
- *The Christian ethos is central to school life, expressed in its mission: Together We Love; Together We Learn, and its vision based on 1 Peter 4:8–10. Daily collective worship and a values-led approach are integral to its culture.*
- *Around ten services are held in church each year to mark key moments in the Christian calendar (open to the whole community), and pupils regularly contribute to Family Services throughout the year. The previous priest-in-charge regularly led collective worship, something the school is keen to continue.*
- *The school plays a central role in village life. Major community events include the summer and Christmas fayres and bonfire night, all run by the PTA (FABS).*
- *The link between the school and church is recognised by Ofsted, SIAMS, and the Diocese as exceptionally strong. A new priest-in-charge would continue this valued partnership—supporting RE, worship, and helping young people feel at home in the church.*





# Key Metrics- BARFORD

		2022	2023	2024	Notes
Electoral Roll		75	73	72	electoral roll to be conducted 2025
Average Sunday attendance		24	22	22	
Baptisms		4	3	3	
Marriages		2	0	2	
Funerals		5	8	5	



# SHERBOURNE

Background

History

Key takeaways





# SHERBOURNE PARISH CHURCH

- *The present All Saints Church is a beautiful Victorian Grade II listed building, designed by George Gilbert Scott RA., modelled on Salisbury Cathedral and commissioned by Louisa Ann Ryland, in 1864.*
- *The first church on the site was Saxon, which was significantly altered during the Norman period. It was rebuilt in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, and the nave and tower were rebuilt again in 1747 by Thomas Webb. The remainder was demolished and rebuilt in 1802 by Rev. Elias Webb, and Thomas Webb Edge, Joint Lords of the Manor. There was a priest in Sherbourne in 1086.*
- *The Church has excellent bells, with the Peal of Six Bells being in the upper stage of the tower. One is by Hugh Watts of Leicester, dated 1632 and the others are by Meares of Whitechapel, in 1863. All Saints continues to host many bell ringing competitions.*
- *All Saints is a very popular wedding and baptism venue. There is a close relationship with Sherbourne Park. There is a childrens area at the rear of the church. Unlike the other parishes, Sherbourne currently does not have a village hall, which means the church hosts village meetings, coffee mornings and acts as the polling station when required.*
- *All Saints has its own small band of cheerful volunteers who generously offer their time and skills in preparing for services and hosting fundraising events.*



# Key Metrics- SHERBOURNE

		2022	2023	2024	Notes
<b>Electoral Roll</b>		42	42	49	<i>electoral roll to be conducted 2025</i>
<b>Average Sunday attendance</b>		12	12	12	
<b>Baptisms</b>		2	4	3	
<b>Marriages</b>		5	4	3	
<b>Funerals</b>		4	8	6	

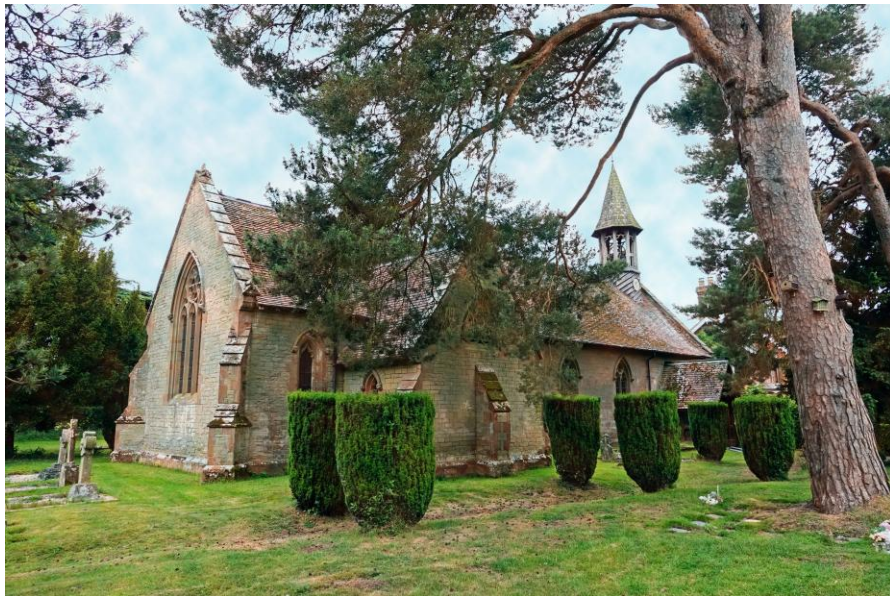


# WASPERTON

Background

History

Key takeaways



# WASPERTON PARISH CHURCH

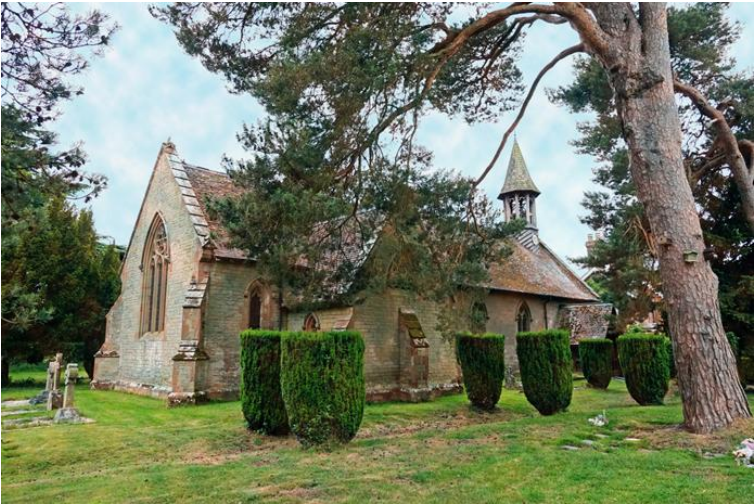
- Rural church on an ancient settlement dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, having Roman, British, Anglo Saxon, Pagan and Christian influences with a rich cultural and architectural heritage.
- Located in Wasperton, named in the Domesday book, with a population of between 90 and 292 consistently over the period - relatively unaltered since the village map was produced in 1686, the church being on site since 1279 with the main structure constructed in 1822.
- Commissioned and paid for by Thomas Leveson Lane for £3000 to plans by Sir George Gilbert Scott and Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin - a rare example of such collaboration.
- The Bell turret over the nave contains two bells, one founded by Henry Bagley cast in 1683 and the other founded by Thomas Mears dated 1817.
- The village hall, originally the school house was built in 1843 and is a thriving part of the Wasperton community. Both the PCC and the Village Hall committee work in tandem to use this valuable space for the benefit of the Wasperton community, with Fetes, Gatherings, Art Classes and a pop-up pub, The Wobbly Wasp bringing people together.
- The Church, Churchyard and PCC are actively supported by a small band of volunteers, making this a true community church.





# Key Metrics- WASPERTON

		2022	2023	2024	Notes
Electoral Roll		29	28	26	electoral roll to be conducted 2025
Average Sunday attendance		14	12	11	
Baptisms		0	1	0	
Marriages		0	0	0	
Funerals		3	6	2	





# FINANCIAL PROFILES

	BARFORD	SHERBOURNE	WASPERTON	NOTES
<i>Planned giving</i>	17360	0	2820	<i>covenanted income</i>
<i>gift aid</i>	6525	TBD	TBD	<i>Activation codes not received yet</i>
<i>donations</i>	3798	15473	7627	
<i>grants</i>	0	0	0	
<i>Total Income 2024</i>	65600	15473	10447	
<i>general expenditure</i>	69525	18215	9199	
<i>parish share</i>	27571	4000	2000	
<i>unrestricted income</i>	10423	13153	27298	
<i>restricted income</i>	75831	41653	52086	
<i>Notable works</i>		creation of toilet in vestry est £20k	repairs to bell turret, est £30k	

# What we have to offer

## ***The Rectory***

***The successful applicant will be offered a well-maintained rectory located in the heart of Barford. The property is within walking distance of St Peter's Church, the school, the village shop, and several community facilities. Full details and images are available upon request.***

## ***Village Life***

***Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton are active and welcoming villages, each with its own character and a strong sense of community.***

***Coffee mornings and community meals take place regularly across the benefice and are open to all. The churches also contribute to village life through events such as summer BBQs, Christmas Cafés, and guided walks created for special occasions.***

***Each village offers a range of valuable facilities:***

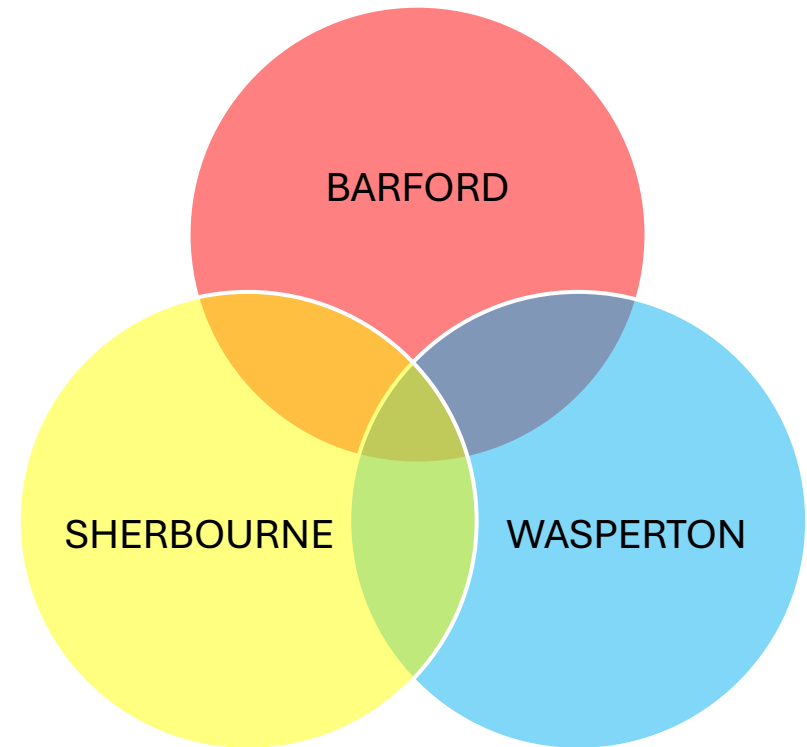
- ***Barford has a community-run village shop, village hall, and the Youth & Community Centre (BYCC), which hosts a variety of activities, including the monthly Repair Café, music groups, and local Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts.***
- ***Wasperton has a welcoming village hall, the Wobbly Wasp pop-up pub, and a peaceful churchyard cherished by many in the community.***





# BENEFICE STRENGTHS

- ***3 Benefice Churches that know each other well and support each other***
- ***Active and growing band of Volunteers, lay readers, and PCC members across all 3 churches***
- ***Strong community feelings that represent the uniqueness of each church***



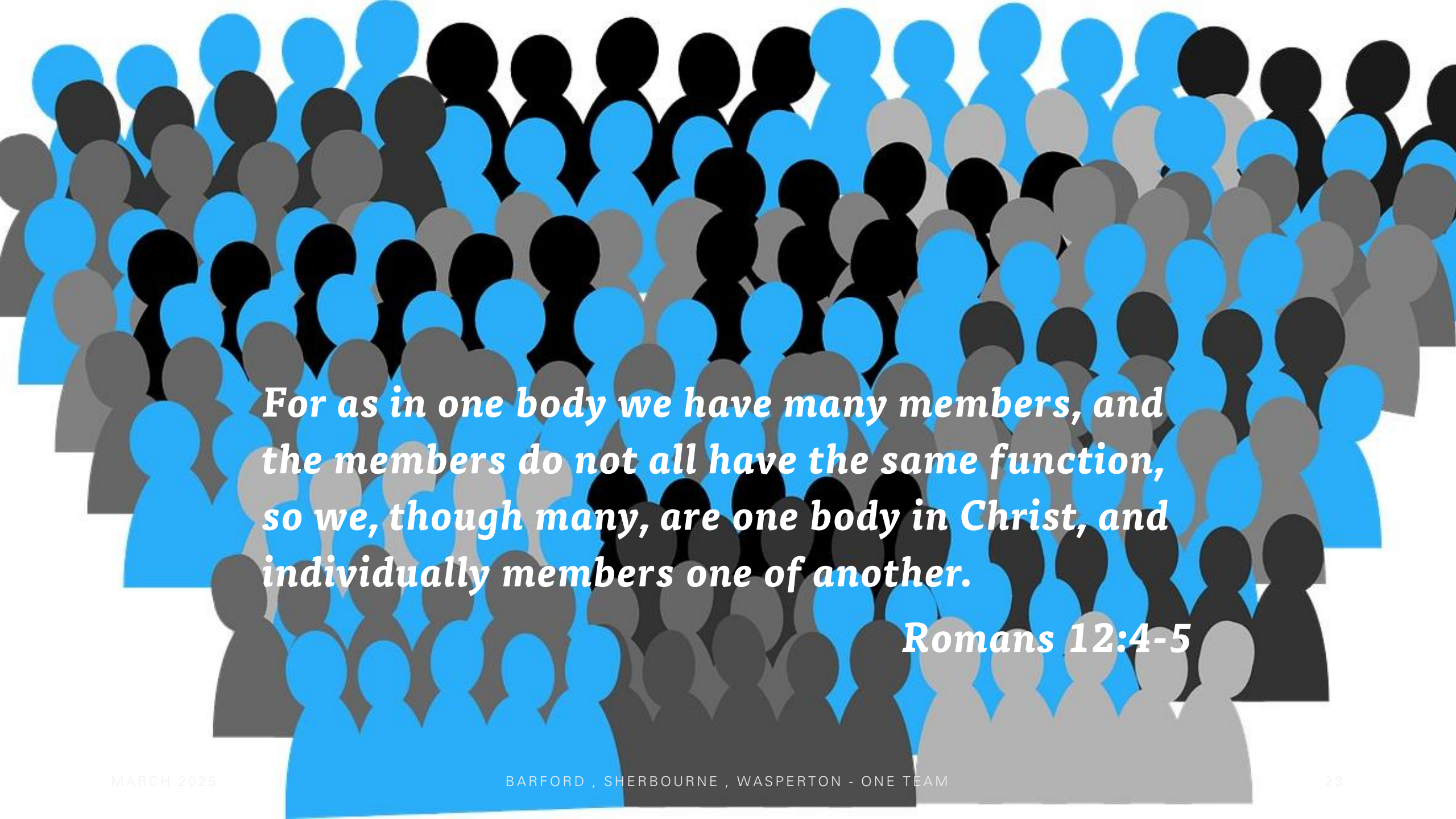
# BENEFICE CHALLENGES

Attracting  
new  
worshippers

Funds

Building  
Maintenance

Ageing  
congregation

A large crowd of stylized human figures in blue, black, and grey, filling the background of the slide. The figures are of various shades and are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern, creating a sense of a large gathering or community.

*For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

*Romans 12:4-5*





## Key takeaways

- 1- We are 3 churches wanting a Priest-in-Charge that can work with us to expand the mission of God***
- 2- One who appreciates and understands the diversity of the three rural church communities and draw the strengths from each***
- 3- Working as ONE TEAM***

## Any questions

*If you have any questions or would like to have an informal chat about our churches and our hopes for the future, please contact any of the team below on*

- **Archdeacon Missioner, Ven Barry Dugmore, 07487 578311**
- **Tim, Churchwarden- Barford- 07545 457659**
- **Ann, Lay Reader- 01926 624371**
- **Maggie, PCC member- Sherbourne- 07879 027395**
- **Or Anne, Treasurer, Wasperton and Sherbourne -07939 111461**

*who will be delighted to speak with you about this. Thank You, and GOD BLESS*

