Curacy Parish Profile

1 General Information

Benefice / Parish(es)	**St Mark, Bilton**
Incumbent Name	**Rev'd Daniel Bennett**
Address	The New Rectory, Pool Close, Bilton, Rugby, CV22 7RN
Preferred Phone	07597027825
Email	revdanielbennett@outlook.com
Date of Ordination	Sep 2020
Length of time in present benefice	2 years, 3 months.
Other offices, responsibilities and duties undertaken by incumbent	Foundation Governor, Bilton Community Federation Trustee, Bilton Poor Lands Charity
Previous posts and experience of incumbent, including details of experience with previous curates	2023-4 Curacy Placement at St Michael's, Budbrooke 2020-3 Curate at Stoke St Michael's, Coventry. No previous experience, but identified by the bishop as a training incumbent.

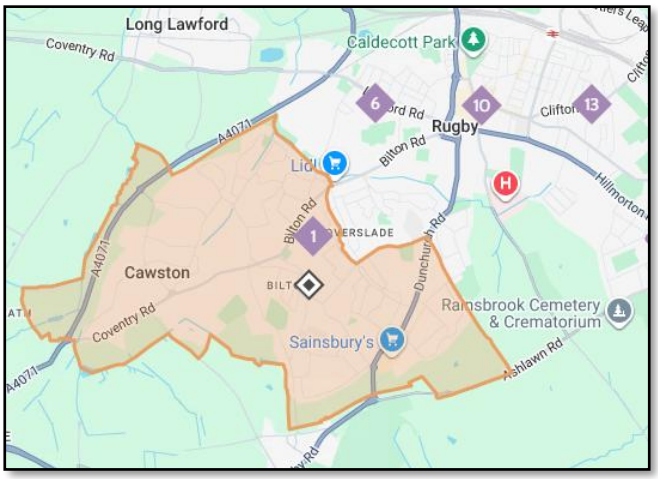
2 Nature of Post

Please tick which are applicable:

- ☒ **Training post for deacon who expects to be ordained priest**
- ☒ **Training post for permanent deacon**

3 The Context: the parish setting

Please indicate: size of population, geographical spread of area served and distances involved, types of housing, kinds of job people do, availability of public transport, institutions (e.g. hospitals, schools, old peoples' homes), social mix, and other salient features. It may be helpful to include a simple map to help to indicate the setting of the parish:



St Mark's Church serves a substantial suburban parish on the south-western side of Rugby. The parish has 20,736 residents and is expected to grow with the addition of new housing developments.

The parish includes Bilton village, old Bilton, the Admirals and Woodlands estates, and Cawston. The church [1] stands near the historic village centre on Church Walk, approximately 1½–2 miles from Rugby town centre.

Housing ranges from older cottages and village houses to twentieth-century detached and semi-detached homes, bungalows, flats and newer family housing. There is a mixture of owner occupation, private renting and social housing, with approximately 10% of households in social housing.

Reflecting Rugby's wider economy, employment includes professional and administrative work, engineering, manufacturing, logistics, education, health and social care, retail and skilled trades.

Bilton village has a decent provision of local shops including Co-op, Tesco, a butcher, cheese shop, hairdressers, post office, two pubs, take aways etc. Bus services connect Bilton and Cawston with Rugby town centre which is strongly influenced by the presence of Rugby School. There is good access to the M6 (J1) and central London (55 minutes by rail to Euston) as well as Birmingham airport.

There are 9 schools in the parish including Bilton Church of England Junior School. The church has a formal link with this school and the two infant schools (Bawnmore and Bilton) which make up the Bilton Community Federation of schools. There are a number of care homes in the parish and the town is served by the nearby hospital of Rugby St Cross.

The parish includes families, working-age adults and a substantial retired population. Although relatively advantaged overall, significant financial need remains in certain parts of the parish. Bilton retains a strong village identity with community organisations and active uniformed groups.

Please also indicate from the following the main broad category (or categories), as you think most accurate:

- ☐ **Rural**
- ☐ **Semi-rural**
- ☐ **Country town**
- ☐ **Industrial**
- ☒ **Suburban**
- ☒ **Urban**
- ☐ **City centre**
- ☐ **Inner city**
- ☐ **Housing estate**

4 The Church(es)

Number of Churches in the benefice: 1

Please **list the churches**, giving a flavour of each, **including** their ecclesiastical tradition, and "Usual Sunday Attendance," and whether the congregation is mainly local or gathered. If a Team Ministry, Group Ministry or LEP, please give a general description of it:

St Mark's Bilton

St Mark's aims to be a broad church which welcomes people of different backgrounds, ages and stages of faith. We offer space for questions alongside opportunities to deepen Christian belief and discipleship.

We value the Eucharist, the rhythm of the church year and the richness of Anglican liturgy and choral music. At the same time we have been gradually developing our offering of more contemporary and creative worship, which is accessible to all ages.

The congregation includes a substantial active retired and older membership, whose commitment and experience sustain much of parish life. Growing relationships with children, young people and their families is an important priority which has been supported by the work of a part-time Children and Families Worker over the last 2 years. We have seen growth in the number of U16s and families attending Sunday worship since 2024, have started a stay and play toddler group, and revitalised a monthly Youth Club.

Our average usual Sunday attendance is currently:

8am BCP Holy Communion – 8 adults
10am Holy Communion (CW) / All Age Worship – 86 adults, 12 children
6pm Compline – 8 adults (Evensong 23 adults)

The congregation is mainly locally based in Bilton and Cawston, although we do have some members who come from other parts of Rugby such as Hillmorton, Brownsover or further afield (e.g. Brinklow.)

St Mark's plays an important role in the life of the local community who often gather in their hundreds for Harvest Festival, Remembrance, and Carols by Candlelight. We hire the church centre to community groups and we have links with local churches, schools, uniformed organisations and care homes.

For the benefice as a whole, please give:

Electoral Roll Number(s)	140
Pattern of Sunday Worship (services, times, forms of service used)	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Holy Communion (CW) (Organ & Choir); 2nd Sunday All Age Worship (Band-led) 6pm Compline; 1st Sunday Choral Evensong
Weekday Services	10am Wednesday BCP Communion
Occasional Offices (approximate annual numbers)	**Baptisms: 24** **Weddings: 2-4** **Funerals: 22**
Daily Offices or Prayers	On Monday and Tuesday we livestream Morning Prayer from the church.
Staff/Team Members	Revd Glenn Lowde (Associate Minister), Elisabeth Jeyasingh (Children and Families Worker), Holly Byatt (Administrator), Naomi Assheton (Administration Assistant), Revd Philip Street, (PTO)
Lay involvement	Christine Assheton (Churchwarden), Jean Stevenson (Treasurer) Pastoral Team led by Angela Maxwell Worship Team led by Patsy Howes (Choir Director) Welcome Team led by Marie Daniels Churchyard Gardening Team led by Sandra Bevan
House, study & prayer groups	We have 8 home groups with around 50-60 members in total. They meet on weekday afternoons/evenings. One of these is a "pop up" group which runs an Exploring Christian Faith course on the basis of interest.
Parochial organisations	Little Lions, Stay and Play Toddler Group

	St Mark's Rocks and Teen Talk (Sunday Children's Provision) Bolder! Youth Club (Once a month) St Mark's Choir Bellringers Friends of St Mark's (Social and Fundraising) Marksmen Group
Areas of particular mission & ministry *(e.g. schools, hospitals, industry, prison, youth, elderly people, single parents, homeless, healing)*	Care Home and Pastoral Visiting Schools Ministry
Opportunities for the development of New Worshipping Communities / Fresh Expressions	We try to ensure that our community groups have an element of worship and our toddler group and youth club both have a little "thought for the day". These could be developed. We hold a communion service at Lime Tree Retirement Village once a month. Possible future developments include starting a new worshipping community based at Bilton Junior School or in the Community Centre at Cawston.
Particular future plans (already established)	
Has a resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests been passed? If so, what arrangements have been put in place under the Declaration? *(N.B. Resolutions A and B and petitions under the 1993 Act of Synod are treated as if they were resolutions passed under the House of Bishops Declaration for a transitional period ending on 17 November 2016.)*	No
Areas and types of co-operation with other local churches *(either Anglican or ecumenical)*	We are part of a supportive Deanery of churches in Rugby and belong to the ecumenical REVIVE network of Rugby churches. There are three other churches in Bilton – Methodist, Catholic and Bilton Evangelical Church (BEC). There is no specific or formal churches together group in Bilton at the moment although there are a number of shared links.
Any other activities or comments	

5 Vision and Priorities

How does the Church in the relevant parish(es) see itself?

We regard ourselves as a welcoming and vibrant church that seeks to be a place where people can encounter God in worship, grow in their faith, and play their part in reaching out to the local community.

What is the vision of mission?

As part of the third strand of our vision – loving our neighbours/community – we seek to play a vital role in the flourishing of the parish by which people come to their own faith in Christ. Our missional approach, therefore, is one of invitational evangelism and relationship building with the local community, seeking to join in with what God is already doing. We also seek to offer people a pathway to faith and discipleship: beginning with local community outreach events, moving through invitations to special services, onto our own Exploring Christianity course, and through to becoming active members of the church and our Home Groups. We take the 5th Mark of Mission seriously evident in the dedicated work of our Churchyard Gardening Team.

What are the incumbent's and PCC's vision and priorities? Please indicate whether the incumbent and PCC jointly share these priorities or whether there are significant differences.

We have recently been working on a refreshed vision with the PCC and congregation and we have agreed to take forward a vision based around "Worshipping God, Welcoming All, and Loving our Neighbours/Community." (We haven't quite agreed the final wording!)

Our priorities for the current year were discussed at our PCC Away Day. Our top two priorities are: "deepening and broadening worship" and "children and youth". In addition, we have a substantial financial challenge to address as we have been running deficits for a number of years.

6 How does the incumbent understand the role of training?

I see my role as a training incumbent as providing an environment in which a curate can grow, flourish and mature in their calling to ministry. This would include opportunities for prayer, worship, study and reflection so that the curate can form and develop their own habits and practices. I would also aim to ensure that at the end of three years, the curate would feel confident and equipped to make the step into a first incumbency post. I would hope that our shared learning together as we minister alongside one another in the joys and challenges of parish ministry would be beneficial and enriching to us both.

7 What is the likely role of the curate in future plans?

These will always be shaped by the individual training needs, skills, gifting and calling of an individual curate. A curate at St Mark's may play a role in any of the following: growing our newly flourishing children and youth work; developing our Eco Church initiatives; leading new expressions of worship – e.g. Forest Church, Lego Church, contemporary worship; pastoral visiting and assisting with services in care homes; schools work; reaching out to newer estates; or something else!

8 Areas of particular responsibility for curate in training

See possible options above.
There may well be opportunities to serve on local governing/Trustee boards with schools/charities.

9 Accommodation: If known, please give details indicating whether house/flat, number of bedrooms, garage, availability of study, garden, etc.

Provisionally, a 4-bedroom detached house in Monks Close, CV22 7FP, situated a 4 minute drive from Bilton, with through lounge, kitchen-diner, study, conservatory, small rear garden. On-street parking.

10 Any additional information the incumbent feels it is important to give at this stage

I think it might help potential curates to very briefly outline some positions on Living in Love and Faith.

At St Mark's, we do not currently have any publicly stated position on LLF although I think the majority of the PCC would regard themselves as "inclusive" or "affirming". We do have a vision to be a church which is welcoming to all

people – including LGBTQ+ people – whether they would like to see the Church of England's teaching one day change or whether they uphold the church's current teaching on marriage. I am happy to offer the Prayers of Love and Faith to same-sex couples in committed relationships.

11 If not the incumbent, who should be contacted with enquiries in the first instance?

Name	
Position	
Address	
Preferred Phone Number	
Email address	