

# PROFILE OF THE PARISHES OF

*Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut,  
St Briavels, and Hewelsfield and Brockweir*



## FOR THE ROLE OF

**Vicar** of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut and  
**Priest in Charge** of St Briavels with Hewelsfield and Brockweir

2025

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## SAFEGUARDING

We are committed to ensuring the full and safe inclusion of everybody in our Parishes and you can view our safeguarding policies below.

**Click here to view our Safeguarding Policies:**

**Tidenham with Beachley  
and Lancaut**

**St Briavels with Hewelsfield  
and Brockweir**

# Welcome

Welcome to the Parishes of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut, St Briavels, and Hewelsfield and Brockweir, a unique set-up of sister Benefices in the Forest Deanery, at the southwestern tip of Gloucester Diocese, with three Parishes and five active Churches. Our congregations are an eclectic group of God's people, where everyone is welcome.

The Parishes enjoy a broad range of worshipping styles, with a range of traditional and contemporary worship, sung Eucharists, traditional and modern hymns. In addition to hymn books we have a bespoke song book and use audio visual aids. Our worship includes lay leaders and both Eastward and Westward facing celebrations and our ministry team and congregations work together in mutual respect and love.

For over 10 years, our three Parishes have paid their full Parish share. We have a sound financial base on which to grow. You can see more information in our annual reports.

We are looking for someone who is deeply prayerful, a challenging, collaborative thinker and worker, able to hold differences in unity, with a heart for mission and community, a passion for Jesus Christ and developing His Kingdom in this beautiful part of the world.

Our new Vicar will split their time between Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut as Vicar and St Briavels with Hewelsfield and Brockweir as Priest in Charge. They will also be an active member of Gloucester Diocese and Forest Deanery.

The Vicar will be supported by an Associate Priest, an Ordained Local Minister, two Lay Readers, three Licensed Pastoral Visitors, a Licensed Funeral Minister and five PTO Priests.

**Come and join in the work of God, leading, challenging and inspiring us!**

[Click here to view our annual reports:](#)

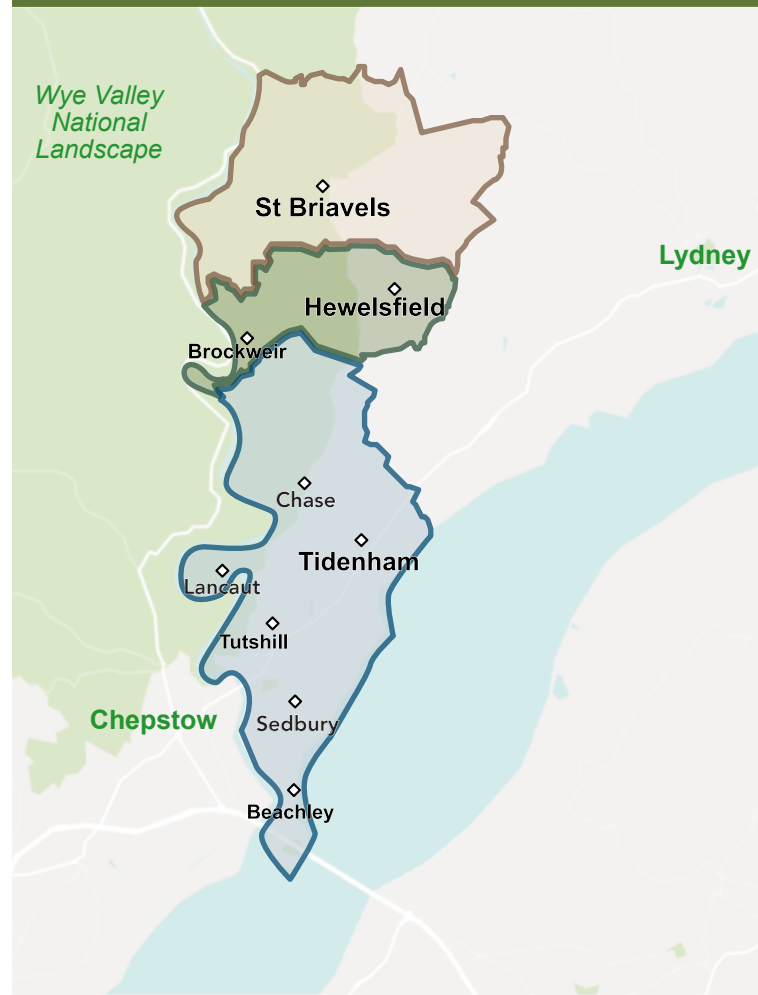
[Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut Annual Report](#)

[St Briavels Annual Report](#)

[Hewelsfield and Brockweir Annual Report](#)

**I would like to see a Godly person who loves and is focused on Jesus and the Kingdom of God, who lives lightly with Church and passionately when it comes to God's Kingdom and the community.**

— Parishioner



# Who we are

## Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut

Our Parish is within the beautiful Wye Valley Area of Natural Beauty and borders the historic Forest of Dean to the north and Chepstow in Wales to the south. Each Parish village has its own identity and life, ranging from more rural communities to suburban villages and an army camp in Beachley, currently hosting Afghan refugees. The population of the Parish was c.6,000 in the last census of 2021, with significant growth seen since through the addition of new housing. Worshippers also travel to our Parish from Chepstow and the surrounding areas.

We have Churches in Tidenham, Tidenham Chase and Tutshill with congregations of c.25, c.7—15, and 50—80 adults with c.20 youth and children respectively. For special services, we get significantly higher attendance. Worship events take place in Sedbury Space, a community centre serving Sedbury, which has opportunities to grow God's Kingdom and meet social and spiritual need. The Parish also contains the redundant

church of St John, Beachley and the ruins of the church of St James, Lancaut.

Our vision is 'Living life together in the flow of God's love', meaning we feel called to build strong and honest relationships: with the God who made us, loves us and calls us; with each other in the Christian community; with the places where we live and work; and with the wider world. Our mission takes us out into the local areas, as well as bringing people into our church buildings to help build the Kingdom of God in Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut.

We have strong links with local schools and other community and civil organisations within the Parish.

You can find out more about our Parish through our Link Magazine, published quarterly, available on our website.

[Click here to go to Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut's website](#)



Lantern Procession

“It was so refreshing on that first visit to worship at St Luke, Tutshill, that there was no sense of any particular churchmanship — just a group of people who clearly loved God and evidently loved their neighbour — and, to a now PTO priest, a delight to be one of FIVE who have chosen to serve in this Parish.

— PTO Priest



# Who we are

## St Briavels

St Briavels is an historic Parish in the Forest of Dean, near the Welsh border and Offa's Dyke. The village comprises families with roots firmly established, younger families with children and retired people. Many of the latter two groups have moved into the village from elsewhere. The Parish Council estimate that approximately 60% of the population are aged 55 or over. The population of the village was c.1,300 in the last census. The village also has a growing Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School, a Congregational Chapel, a doctors' surgery, a pub and a local shop. The village has a recreation ground with tennis courts and meeting / social event and club facilities at the Pavilion and Assembly Rooms.

The Church is in the heart of the village next to the mediaeval castle and open daily. Worship is traditional and the main Sunday service is sung Eucharist from Common Worship, supplemented by mid-week

services and prayer. The main Sunday service attracts around 15 worshippers, while festivals bring around 40. A committed and faithful Ordained Local Minister leads the Parish and the congregation is familiar with different styles of worship.

The village retains a deep sense of history and community, for example on the Day of Pentecost the Church moves outside to hear an invited priest earn 'The Whittington Purse' by delivering a sermon to the assembled crowd (usually more than one hundred) awaiting the 'Bread and Cheese Ceremony'. Bread and cheese are thrown from the Pound wall to local 'Dole Claimers'.

You can find out more on our website.

[Click here to go to St Briavels with Hewelsfield and Brockweir's website](#)



Bread and Cheese Ceremony

# Who we are

## Hewelsfield and Brockweir

This rural Parish has approximately 450 residents in two villages and dispersed properties. The community is a blend of local families often with agricultural roots, and many newer residents, including professionals and small business owners. This combination brings diverse perspectives and a shared love of the countryside, creating a close-knit and supportive community.

There are c.18 regular attendees in the congregation, led by a faithful and dedicated Reader. Hospitality is a treasured aspect of our Church community, with gatherings centred around food being a vital way to connect and strengthen bonds. These occasions, whether following services or during special events, allow Parishioners and newcomers alike to share in fellowship, good conversation and the timeless sense of community that food often brings. We provide 24-hour access to our well-used Little Larder.

St Mary Magdalene is at the far edge of the Parish. There is a thriving village shop and nearby hall that serve as central gathering places. St Mary Magdalene's congregation are also actively involved in local societies, such as the history, amateur dramatics and gardening clubs, building links between church life and village activities. Through these connections, our church extends its reach, relevance and welcome within the broader community.

You can find out more on our website.

[Click here to go to St Briavels with Hewelsfield and Brockweir's website](#)



Community Flower Show

# Who we are

## Forest Deanery

These are exciting times for the Forest Deanery. As our Deanery Strategic Plan, which we have been working on for some time, begins to work toward implementation, we are already beginning to see a real enthusiasm for working more collaboratively, as the body of Christ across this beautiful part of the diocese. We want to appoint someone who will be excited about working with lay and ordained colleagues within the Benefices and across the deanery, and who will appreciate the support that such collaboration offers.

Our deanery plan is made up of four main pillars: Local Ministry, Youth Ministry, Buildings (including Church Offices) and Training (including Support and Administration). Each pillar is led by a member of the team and work within each area is focused deanery wide, as we all look to walk together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

As part of this we are also looking to appoint two interim ministers within the deanery who will be working collaboratively across Benefices, together with our Diocesan Senior Interim Minister Reverend Ali Mephram. This important work will look at how we best establish effective ministry teams across the deanery, in a way that is sustainable and life giving for our clergy; together with support from developing Local Ministers (lay and ordained) in the Parishes. With our Youth (and Children's) Ministry work, greater support for our officers and how we care for our buildings, we hope to enable a deanery that is able to grow as fruitful branches of the vine. This is a big task, but also a unique opportunity and so with prayer, attentiveness to what we are being called to, we travel in hope.

*Reverend Bea Erskine*  
*Area Dean*





# Our Wellbeing Ministry

Our Wellbeing Ministry, funded by donations and grants, seeks to meet the diverse needs of individuals by offering holistic support and encouraging connection, belonging and purpose to promote mental, physical and spiritual healing within our community. The ministry is led by our part time Wellbeing Chaplain (whose balance of time is spent as an Associate Priest), with support from the part time Children, Youth and Families Missioner. The Ministry partners with local social services, health providers, schools and charities such as Christians Against Poverty.

We provide a Chaplaincy Chat Room, community meals, a café, Bible Study, a baby and toddler group and support groups for cancer and bereavement at Sedbury Space. Following the reordering of St Luke, Tutshill, the Church is used for wellbeing activities, such as a Little Larder foodbank and gatherings for children, youth and families, including a parent and toddler group. Additional offerings include mindfulness courses, Pilates and a men's group. These activities are designed to build relationships, foster community and explore the Christian faith in a sensitive, inclusive way.

By creating opportunities for connection and support, the ministry aims to foster wholeness and bring life to our community, ensuring that individuals experience wellbeing in all aspects of their lives.

**“Many of our regular attendees have been introduced to Sedbury Space’s provision by Reverend Nicki through her liaison work with local GP surgeries. The doctors appreciate that for some people meeting others, usually in smaller groups and on their own terms, can benefit their health, reduce their need to see a GP and offer a range of opportunities. This links to mission and faith development via one-to-one confidential sessions in the weekly Chaplaincy Chatroom, the Bible Study group and the drop-in café through to an introduction to worship. This work has identified the benefit of activities to address aspects of the mental health needs of adults and in some cases, children.”**

— Sedbury Space Trustee



Little Larder food collection



Christmas Lunch



Sedbury Space



# Children, Youth and Families Ministry (CYFM)

Children, youth and families are a priority in our Parishes.

## Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut

The Parish employs a part time Children, Youth and Families Missioner, along with our newly appointed Youth Intern, who work with the ministry team and volunteers to nurture our younger members and families in the Christian faith. They build relationship within the Church and wider community and encourage and grow faith working with schools, toddler groups, children, youth and families.

We have thriving baby and toddler groups that are a key part of the Wellbeing Ministry. A 30+ strong volunteer team of CYFM volunteers supports Church and community events, for example the annual St Martin's Lantern Walk and Scarecrow Trail in Tutshill.

We enjoy seeing our young people immersed in the love of God, for them to grow in personal faith and use their faith in everyday life. We are also committed to supporting families as they juggle the demands of daily life. Our young people are playing their part in the life and worship of

the Church and are encouraged to progress through dedication, baptism, first Holy Communion and Confirmation. We also have close links to other Churches and youth groups in Chepstow and the Forest Deanery, which provide Mission opportunities abroad for teens and social gatherings locally.

**We loved the weekend away with other Churches. The best thing was the food and hanging out with people.**

— Youth

**I'm so grateful that people give up their time to run youth to enable my teens to mix with other Christian friends and explore their faith.**

— Parent

**I'm so grateful to the volunteers at Tutshill baby and toddler group. When I became seriously ill and was hospitalised for six weeks, they supported my husband and two children by cooking meals and checking in on us. It helped me to know that they were getting this support.**

— Parent

St Luke, Tutshill has youth worship, an active Sunday School (SPLASH), with crèche facilities for the very young and a very well attended Family Service which occurs once a month. The children from Tutshill C of E primary school hold bi-weekly assemblies at St Luke. Both Tutshill and St John's schools hold special services such as leavers, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter at St Luke.

## St Briavels, and Hewelsfield and Brockweir

Children and families are welcomed and children's corners provided in each Church. The children from St Briavels C of E primary school hold special services at St Mary the Virgin, similar to those at Tutshill. We are focused on attracting younger congregational members wherever possible. The Vicar and Priest in Charge will have the opportunity to be a governor in Tutshill and St Briavels C of E schools.

# Is God calling you to lead us?

Are you...?



Leading the team collaboratively, you will further develop our mission and ministry strategy, leveraging existing activities such as our Wellbeing and Children, Youth and Families Ministries. Looking outward and to the future, building upon our work in local communities, transforming the use of our buildings, leading us through the inclusiveness question and growing our faithful congregations in all of our churches.

# Working together with your collaborative team



**Come and lead us!**



# Our vision

## Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut

Our Vision is: *Living Life Together in the Flow of God's Love.*  
We do this in, through and by relationship:

**T** Transforming Relationship through Worship

**A** Authentic Relationship through Discipleship

**B** Building up Relationship Capacity

**L** Loving Relationship through Community

**E** Engaging Relationship through Mission

**“Where the river flows, everything will live”**

— Ezekiel 47:9

“I arrived at St Luke through a grandson's baptism and a daughter's wedding. The welcome I received during subsequent visits to Church awoke a dormant faith in me. After encouragement by the Vicar and congregation I was thrilled to be confirmed and grow my relationship with God and my new Christian family.

— New Parishioner

Through regularly attending St Luke's since before I could walk and growing up through SPLASH and youth, I have built strong relationships in the Church. This allowed me to take my First Holy Communion aged six and declare my faith in Confirmation aged twelve. I was encouraged at 16 to join the PCC giving a direct youth voice. Through building connections with other local youth groups and the support of my Church family, I went to Brazil on a three-week mission helping at a base that focuses on giving street children a home. I enjoy taking an active role within the Church and community.

— Young Parishioner”

[Click here to view our Vision Statement](#)

*This was reviewed at the Parish AGM (April 2023) considering: What has been achieved and is going well, and what do we need to keep doing? What is ongoing but perhaps needs some work/progress/development? What is struggling, has not happened and is still to happen? See the 2023 Annual report pages 17 & 18.*

# Our vision

## St Briavels, and Hewelsfield and Brockweir — Joint Mission

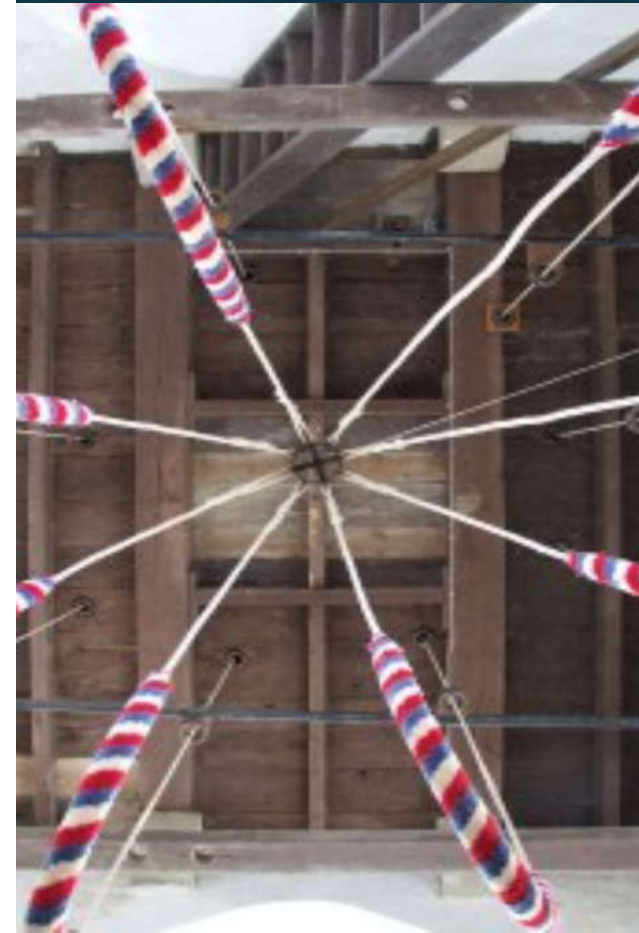
Our mission is to welcome all, serve the community and witness to God's love.

“We believe that our Church family is for everyone, a community of saints, where all are welcomed, each person is recognised and accepted for who they are, to be loved and respected as one of God’s creations. A Church in isolation from its community is just a club. Consequently, we strive to nurture and grow God’s Kingdom through being a part of community life and of its dreams for the future whilst offering support to those in need or pain.

— St Briavels”

“Our vision is to reach out to new generations to grow God’s Kingdom whilst honouring our traditions. We serve as a place of worship, fellowship and community for all, with a welcoming and enduring presence for generations to come. We welcome younger families and engage with newer residents, drawing them into the life of our Church.

— Hewelsfield and Brockweir”



# Our strengths and opportunities

## Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut

### Strengths

- Welcoming all worshippers to a variety of services
- Bringing people from our wider community to faith in Christ
- Enhancing community engagement through our Wellbeing Ministry
- Nurturing our younger members and families in the Christian faith
- Valuing sermons as a way to teach about being a disciple of Jesus in today's world, with all of its challenges and distractions
- Encouraging prayer and contemplation both collectively and individually
- Using contemporary communication channels to evangelise
- Strong track record of fostering vocational opportunities
- Fostering spiritual growth through Life Groups
- Committed to Fairtrade practices
- Eco Church Bronze in progress
- Maintaining close ties with Chepstow Churches
- Developing international links through youth mission events in Brazil and Denmark
- Supporting charitable initiatives such as visits to Ukraine with humanitarian supplies
- Volunteering, e.g. pastoral visitors, cleaners, musicians, hospitality teams, Church building and land maintenance

### Opportunities

- Building upon our strengths as we
  - Grow our congregations and community outreach, which sustain God's Kingdom in our Parish
  - Improve our communication
  - Build greater unity while respecting differences within our eclectic community
  - Maintain and reorder our historic buildings in line with a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan
- Working with you on new ideas that you identify



**Come and challenge us!**



# Our strengths and opportunities

## St Briavels

### Strengths

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The Parish has a strong sense of community, with many church members involved in local village activities. Special events like the open-air service on Good Friday (jointly with the Congregational Chapel), the Whittington Purse sermon and the 'Bread and Cheese Ceremony' are highlights that bring people together. The Church maintains close ties with the local C of E VA primary school, which recently received a "Good" OFSTED rating. The Church family is welcoming, with a diverse congregation and is seen as a central part of the community, if only for some at the times of major festivals or significant life events. The church building is open daily, and being directly opposite the castle (now a youth hostel) attracts many visitors. There is an excellent team of PTOs supporting the ordained local minister.

## Hewelsfield and Brockweir

### Strengths

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The Church community extends a warm welcome to existing and new people and St Mary Magdalene is open daily for all who seek reflection and prayer. There is a strong sense of teamwork among the congregation (including a few young families), especially during events. A fun and inclusive atmosphere allows people to accept each other's differences. Volunteers read lessons and lead intercessions and there is a singing group. Tea, coffee and cake are served each Sunday and many members are actively involved in the local community, volunteering in the shop and participating in leisure activities.

### Opportunities

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We strive to 'Sing the Lord's song in a strange land.' We have an opportunity to reach out to new families who move into the area, to reach out to the community within and around the village and to our many visitors as we try to grow God's Kingdom here in St Briavels. We also try to encourage more use of our Church building for events. We undertake fund-raising/grant applications to fund future mission work, building maintenance and upkeep of valuable assets like the historic organ.

### Opportunities


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We have an opportunity to reach out to more of the gathered community across the Parish, especially young families, to grow God's Kingdom. We could also fund-raise for better heating and to fulfil the recommendations of the last quinquennial report. We have a project to add a server that needs completing.

# Activities in our communities and churches



Regular meetings of Life and Bible Study groups, e.g. in local cafe




Children, Youth and Families activities including the annual Tutshill Scarecrow Trail




Nursery School: Powder House Farm  
Primary Schools: Tutshill C of E, Offa's Mead, St Briavels C of E  
Middle/Senior Schools: Dean Close  
St John's, Wyedean




Tidenham Parish Link Magazine, Facebook, website, weekly briefing.  
St Briavels & Hewelsfield Village News, website, Facebook




Bell ringers meet at St Mary & St Peter, St Mary the Virgin and St Mary Magdalene




Choral Societies, concerts, Folk Club, Wye Valley Music, 'Christmas Crackers'




Tidenham Parish lunch for over 50s




Tidenham Parish coffee morning




Care home visits and Holy Communion




Partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP)




Volunteering in local community shops



Friends of St Mary and St Peter, Tidenham

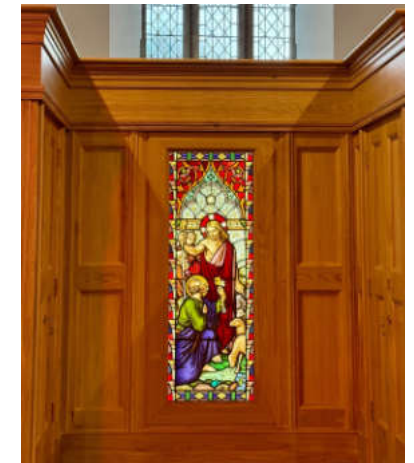


Annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary and St Peter, Nativity Exhibition and Flower Festival at St Mary Magdalene



Annual pilgrimage to St James, Lancut





**ORGAN RECITAL AND TALK**  
by Martin Pagnamenta  
**7.30 PM ON FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER**  
AT ST BRIAVELS CHURCH

The St Briavels composer Ernest Bryson, and the organ that he gave the church in 1922.

The recital will include works by Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Buxtehude, Healey Willan, Clerambaut, Frederick Burn and of course Ernest Bryson.

Light refreshment to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the organ.

**Free entry**

Outgoing collection in aid of church maintenance and repair.

HEWELSFIELD CHURCH GL15 6QH

**Nativity Display**

Sat 27th & Sun 28th November 11am-4pm

**Free Entry!**

More than 120 nativity sets on display from around the world



Some of the activities that take place in our Churches and communities



# Our buildings



## ST MARY & ST PETER, TIDENHAM

- 13<sup>th</sup>-century Parish Church
- Grade 2\* listed
- 11<sup>th</sup>-century lead font
- Pipe organ
- Bells
- Friends Group
- Flexible north aisle space, toilet, servery, car park
- Disabled access
- Closed Churchyard



## ST LUKE, TUTSHILL

- Victorian Church
- Grade 2 listed
- Flexible nave space, multi-function room, toilets, servery
- Disabled access
- Closed Churchyard
- Modern PA system and digital piano



## ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, TIDENHAM CHASE

- Rural Victorian Church
- Recently acquired Allen organ
- Open Churchyard managed for wildlife in collaboration with "Caring for God's Acre" and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

# Our buildings



## ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ST BRIAVELS

- 12<sup>th</sup>-century Parish Church
- Grade 1 listed
- Norman to Victorian styles, including a Norman font and Victorian bell tower
- Organ similar to that in Liverpool Cathedral
- Bells
- Meeting/Sunday School room
- Toilet
- Kitchen planned
- Disabled access
- Closed Churchyard



## ST MARY MAGDALENE, HEWELSFIELD

- 12<sup>th</sup>-century traditional rural Church
- Grade 1 listed
- Bells
- Compost toilet in Church grounds
- Served planned
- Disabled access
- Open Churchyard

# Your new home and the surrounding area

Our Parishes sit adjacent to the Wye Valley Area of Natural Beauty and the Forest of Dean. There are rural and suburban elements of the area, with close proximity to Chepstow. Excellent road and rail transport links and a variety of shops, restaurants, pubs and cafes, make it a vibrant town. There are good local schools.

The house which will be provided for the new incumbent is a modern, comfortable and spacious private family home. In addition, there are a number of other buildings in our parishes where meetings and events will be comfortably hosted. The Diocesan Board of Finance is working through the planning stages of building a bespoke vicarage, which is anticipated to complete during the tenure of our next incumbent, who will then have the option of moving into the new vicarage, or remaining in the existing house.

Tutshill is a family friendly village with a C of E primary school, a private school and a nearby academy trust comprising a primary and secondary school. It has a village shop, a GP practice, a butcher's shop, a busy cafe, a hairdresser and a community-run pub.

Local travel will be required within the Parishes, the bounds of which lie within a 20-minute drive of the vicarage. Travel will also be required within the Forest Deanery and to Gloucester.





# Come and lead us!

## What our people say about our Church community...

A strong group of preachers and musicians... as well as a thriving pool of volunteers

A safe place to go

People following God and teaching the Bible

The love and kindness and care, for and by each and every member

A beacon in our community

hopeful presence caring  
many people together loving  
outreach group worship service  
community grow faith Forward learn  
good news fellowship life care Christian spread  
seek encourage God support work  
Christians meet serve world  
Jesus new church Christ Spirit  
kingdom all ages family one another  
service body Worship live spiritual eclectic  
welcoming local help share

The toddler group was pivotal to the integration of my family to Tutshill

A vibrant collection of people

The day to day support, sense of community/family

A welcoming, loving Christian presence in the community

We are the light in the darkness

A community hub for meeting

Wonderful worship services

A body of committed Christians

# THANK YOU



*Parishes of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancut,  
St Briavels, and Hewelsfield and Brockweir Profile*



[Tidenham Parish Church Facebook](#)



[St Briavels Church Facebook](#)



[Hewelsfield Church Facebook](#)

"We are looking for someone who is deeply prayerful, a challenging, collaborative thinker and worker, able to hold differences in unity, with a heart for mission and community, a passion for Jesus Christ and developing His Kingdom in this beautiful part of the world."