

April 2025



Melbourn Church from the gallery

# United Benefice of Melbourn, Smisby, Stanton-by-Bridge and Ticknall



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community  
**THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL**

# Archdeacon's Welcome



This is a wonderful opportunity for a confident and capable priest to build on the significant liturgical and pastoral legacy of the previous incumbent.

The Benefice of Melbourne, Ticknall, Smisby and Stanton by Bridge, hereafter 'Melbourne Benefice' is set within a beautiful part of South Derbyshire. The parishes all have their different characters liturgically and in terms of size and shape, with Melbourne by far the biggest. As the benefice has formed and shaped the profile that follows there has been a tangible spirit of collaboration between each of the churches ensuring that the whole benefice is represented. I am deeply encouraged by this approach which the next incumbent will need to seize and develop.

This is a benefice where opportunities in mission and ministry abound. An early priority for the next incumbent will be to discern through prayer, deep listening and collaboration a focused Mission Action Plan to give the benefice renewed focus. In this they will build on the foundations of Framing the Future work, referenced further in this profile.

On the occasions I have visited churches in this benefice, I have found a warmth of welcome and liturgy of varying styles that connects the wonder of God with the life of the world and the challenge of Christian discipleship.

If you come to Melbourne, you will be joining a warm and welcoming deanery chapter led by the Area Dean and convened by the Assistant Area Dean. The Diocese of Derby will invest in your continued development with training grants, retreat grants, access to discretionary funds when needed, the support of excellent colleagues in the Parish Support Team and an annual programme of Ministerial Development Review focused on your vocational growth.

Thank you for reading this far, as you read further be assured of my prayers and those of the benefice. If an informal conversation would be helpful, please email me ([matthew.trick@derby.anglican.org](mailto:matthew.trick@derby.anglican.org)).

With every blessing

The Venerable Matthew Trick  
Archdeacon of Derby City & South Derbyshire

# Melbourne Benefice in a nutshell

The Melbourne Benefice has dedicated parishioners in all four churches. Youth work, house groups, strong liturgy and music, welcome and social life are all part and parcel of the Benefice. There is an active network of activities including strong community care, good connections with all the schools and a vibrant society of Friends.

The Benefice has a developed and experienced musical tradition with trained choirs in two of the four churches, organs in all of them, concerts, fine bells and buildings of importance and antiquity. All these are qualities that are described in greater detail in the profile but which form the core characteristics that we hope the incumbent will embrace and develop.

## We are looking for an incumbent who will:

<p>Be a strong preacher, teacher and communicator, able to link the Gospel to contemporary experience and its challenges.</p>	<p>Be a visionary and inspirational leader, identifying new directions and opportunities and implementing them by collaboratively working with existing teams and new resources.</p>
<p>Be an organised administrator, working closely with the Benefice Administrator and able to delegate effectively to others.</p>	<p>Seek out and engage the skills and talents in our existing congregations and in the wider communities to increase the outreach of our churches.</p>
<p>Be responsive to the needs of each parish, dividing his/her time amongst them, aiming to preach in every church every month.</p>	<p>Have a strong pastoral and visible presence across the Benefice, interacting with schools, charities, organisations and other denominations.</p>
<p>Make our churches relevant and welcoming to everyone, focusing on the spiritual needs of all ages but particularly young people and families for whom church may feel daunting, exclusive or irrelevant.</p>	<p>Have experience of working in a 'mixed ecology', prepared to manage change in an open, collaborative and sensitive manner, while respecting existing forms of worship, including robes, church music and bells.</p>

Our view of a united Benefice is to explore and better understand the qualities which it will bring to the strengthening and spreading of our faith. This suggests working together to bring about greater unity through the sharing of resources and the harnessing of individual strengths and talents to meet each other's needs and concerns

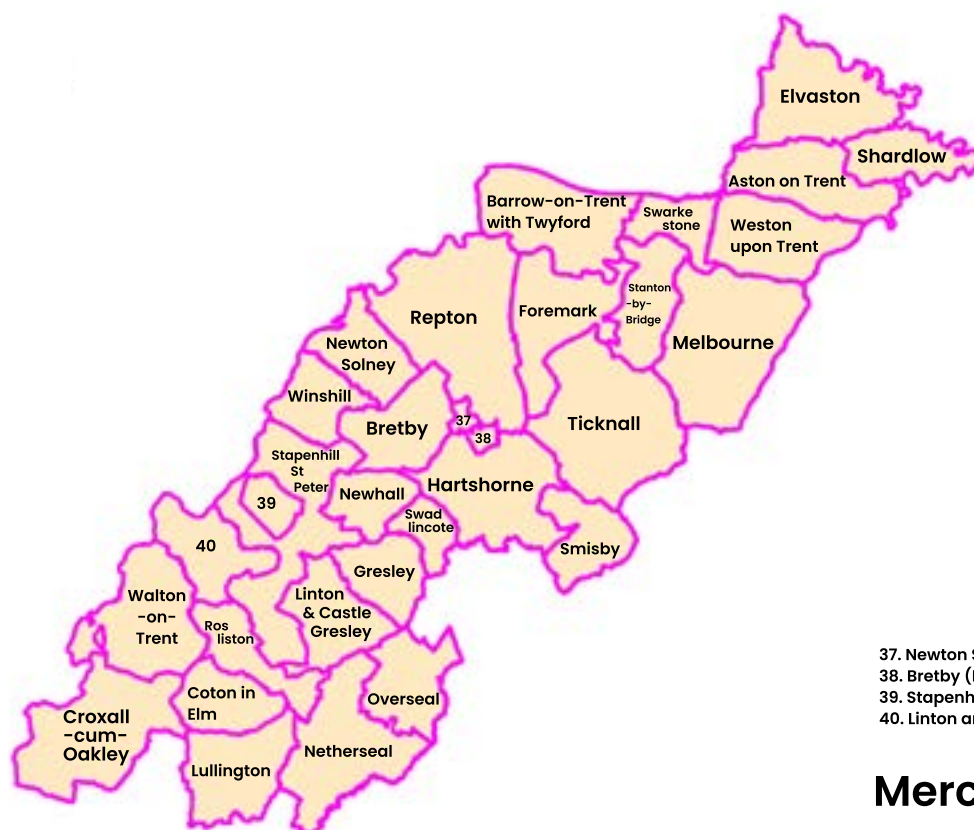
All four churches in the Benefice are united in seeking a priest who will lead the way to greater inclusivity with their parishioners and their wider communities, doing so through prayer and good communication combined with energy and efficiency. The qualities that the Benefice most values are a strong spirituality, compassion and caring, which brings with them active pastoral care and engaging preaching.

Accessibility - being seen in the town and villages and being known and respected by the community at large is important to us all. The visibility of the Incumbent at events in the Benefice, be it local charity events, school events, in the work of Community Care, perhaps too with Daily Offices in the churches across the Benefice, will give encouragement to the community at large to participate in a church which is actively engaged with all.

The congregations are used to Robes being worn by its clergy, to sacred music and to a variety of traditional, contemporary and BCP services. Nonetheless, the ability to reach out and involve a far greater representation of the populace is the primary desire of the Benefice and to do this we are conscious that there is a need for change. A wider use of the churches during weekdays could also be a means towards this end. Doors that are well ajar need to be flung wide open. This is the vision of all of the churches.

An ability to be undaunted, but to delegate and to inspire leadership from the parishes calls for warmth, tolerance, compassion, stability and a sense of humour from a team player – an incumbent who will look to the future whilst honouring the past.

## Location and Map



- 37. Newton Solney (Detached)
- 38. Bretby (Detached)
- 39. Staphenhill Immanuel
- 40. Linton and Castle Gresley (Detached)

**Mercia Deanery**  
November 2024

# Special Responsibilities of Role

Within the Benefice is the National Trust property of Calke Abbey, where the vicar has responsibility for the church. The vicar also serves as a trustee overseeing seven Alms Houses in Ticknall.

## People

Our Benefice lies in the southern tip of Derbyshire, forming part of the Diocese of Derby. It comprises four parishes: the small market town of Melbourne and the villages of Smisby, Stanton-by-Bridge and Ticknall. All four parishes are vibrant rural communities, containing people with a range of backgrounds and interests.

All these communities are within easy reach of the cities of Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and Birmingham and the towns of Swadlincote and Ashby-de-la-Zouch. There are excellent transport links with the M1, M42, A38, A50, East Midlands Airport and mainline railway services at Derby, East Midlands Parkway and Loughborough. There are bus services to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Burton-on-Trent, Derby and Swadlincote. The Benefice is situated on the edge of The National Forest and is surrounded by beautiful countryside criss-crossed by footpaths and bridleways.



Stanton Church

## Melbourne

Melbourne is a small but growing Georgian market town, six miles south of Derby. It has a population of approximately 5,500 with 2,469 households. For census information, please go to: <https://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/area-profiles/>

It is a relatively stable community and a much sought after location. Inhabitants commute into, as well as out of Melbourne and the adjacent village of King's Newton (which does not have a church). The old spirit of a market gardening community nonetheless survives with local nurseries and allotments, two nearby farm shops and a weekly farmers' market.

Melbourne Hall, an 18th-century house with a 17-acre garden open to the public, attracts a large number of visitors, many of whom also visit the Parish Church immediately opposite the Hall across Church Square.

Shops and services include a post office, a Sainsbury's Local, a butcher, bakery, florist, electrical retailer, hairdressers, dress shops, a funeral director, a community hub/leisure centre, a widely used sports facility, pubs, restaurants, cafes and a Royal British Legion, two charity shops and five different denomination churches. There is a health centre with eight doctors, a dental practice, an optician and a pharmacy. Local groups and societies abound (see below).

The monthly 'Village Voice' is a widely read local publication and website, with news and information covering activities across the Benefice. [www.melbournevillagevoice.co.uk](http://www.melbournevillagevoice.co.uk).

## Smisby

Smisby, two miles from Ticknall, four from Melbourne, is an ancient manor and small village, with historic connections between the village and Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

The 2021 Census gives a population of 253 residents and only 2.4% are from outside the UK. 39% of households are recorded as living in some form of deprivation. 8.3% of the population moved into the village in the year before the census.

Demographic changes in Smisby mean that most residents now work away from the village in professional and business occupations. There are several businesses that operate within the parish, including two public houses, one with a micro-brewery; the Bluebell Nursery and Arboretum, and Kilworth Machinery.

## Stanton-by-Bridge

Close to the River Trent, Stanton-by-Bridge is a compact village with about 100 dwellings, 2 working farms and 300 inhabitants. The only facilities are the church and village hall. About 33% of the population are retired, about 8% are children aged up to 18 years, the rest are of working age. The working population cover a broad range of professions and occupations.

## Ticknall

Ticknall is a village with a strong sense of community, numbering approximately 650 inhabitants.

Ticknall was an "estate village" until the 1960s. The National Trust now runs Calke Abbey and much of the original estate, which attracts many visitors. The majority of residents are either commuters or retired. There are two public houses.

# Schools in the benefice

There is good private nursery provision in Melbourne ([/www.sallywagsnursery.com/melbourne](http://www.sallywagsnursery.com/melbourne) and [www.puddleduckspreschoolmelbourne.co.uk](http://www.puddleduckspreschoolmelbourne.co.uk)) and at the Forest School at Whistlewood Common between Melbourne and Ticknall ([www.derbyforestschool.com](http://www.derbyforestschool.com)). All three have Ofsted ratings of 'good'. The Forest School also runs a holiday club for children up to secondary school age. Smisby has a day nursery, but neither Smisby nor Stanton-by-bridge have any formal educational establishment.

Children from Smisby have attended primary and secondary schools in Ashby de la Zouch, though it is outside Derbyshire. There are several private schools within easy driving distance of the village.

Both Melbourne Infant School ([melbourne-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://melbourne-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk)) and Melbourne Junior School ([www.melbourne-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.melbourne-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk)) welcome regular input from the parish church. The schools are located next to each other in the town and both have "Good" Ofsted ratings. Ticknall's small independent school ([damecatherines.org/](http://damecatherines.org/)), adjacent to St George's church, also has a "Good" rating and participates in the church's flower and Christmas tree festivals.

All year groups at the Melbourne schools usually visit the church annually to 'Experience' Christmas, Easter or Pentecost. With a legacy designated to help fund educational work, the church is able to present all pupils in Year 3 with a Children's Bible. A church member runs an ocarina music club at the Infant School and a puppet club at the Junior School. Assemblies are led at each school by a member of the clergy usually once each half term as part of a rota organised by Churches Together in Melbourne. It is often the case that the Incumbent is on the Board of School Governors.

From year 7 most Melbourne, Stanton and Ticknall children attend Chellaston Academy on the southern outskirts of Derby (<http://www.chellaston.derby.sch.uk>), also rated as "Good" by Ofsted. Buses transport the children to and from the school. There are fee-paying schools in Derby, Loughborough and Repton.



Church Square Melbourne

# Community services and other organisations

## Melbourne

### Melbourne Community Care

A much-loved and much-used self-funded charity provides voluntary support to older, lonely and housebound people in Melbourne, Ticknall and Stanton-by-bridge, it has become even more important since the recent loss of Melbourne's Senior Citizens Centre.

[www.melbournecommunitycare.com](http://www.melbournecommunitycare.com)).

### Melbourne Sporting Partnership

Hosts tennis, football, cricket, rugby and netball as well as social events. [melbournemsp.org](http://melbournemsp.org).

### Melbourne Assembly Rooms

A not-for-profit organisation central to local life as a community centre. Rooms can be hired and the Council-run library operates three days per week. [www.melbourneassemblyrooms.co.uk](http://www.melbourneassemblyrooms.co.uk).

### The Melbourne Festival and Arts Trail

This highly successful initiative, initiated in 2005 by The Friends of Melbourne Parish Church, runs in partnership with Arts Melbourne, all the local churches and the Parish Council, attracting over 4,000 people during a weekend in mid-September. The Parish Church, St Michael's House, The vicarage and its garden host artists and the Family Festival for children and young people.

[www.melbournefestival.co.uk](http://www.melbournefestival.co.uk)

### Melbourne Fête and Carnival

The one-day annual event in July, organises a procession through the town with stalls, food, entertainment and music on the school playing field.

[visitpeakdistrict.com/events/melbourne-fete-carnival](http://visitpeakdistrict.com/events/melbourne-fete-carnival)



Magic show, Melbourne



## Whistlewood Common

Along with 20+ other organisations, Melbourne Parish Church is a shareholder in a unique 10-acre community-owned woodland project addressing climate and biodiversity crises at local level. Many parishioners are amongst the 400+ individual members of the project.

[whistlewoodcommon.org](http://whistlewoodcommon.org)

## Other organisations

The largest groups include:

A Choir'd Taste [www.achoird-taste.com](http://www.achoird-taste.com)

Melbourne Civic Society [melbournecivicsociety.wordpress.com](http://melbournecivicsociety.wordpress.com)

Melbourne Footpaths Group [melbournefootpathsgroup.wordpress.com](http://melbournefootpathsgroup.wordpress.com)

Melbourne Historical Research Group [mhrqderbyshire.wordpress.com](http://mhrqderbyshire.wordpress.com)

Melbourne Operatic Society [melbourneoperaticsociety.com](http://melbourneoperaticsociety.com)

Melbourne Photographic Society [melbournephotographicsociety.org.uk](http://melbournephotographicsociety.org.uk)

Melbourne Town Band [melbournetownband.co.uk](http://melbournetownband.co.uk)

Melbourne Women's Institute [derbyshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/melbourne](http://derbyshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/melbourne)

Royal British Legion branches [britishlegion.org.uk/branches/melbourne](http://britishlegion.org.uk/branches/melbourne)

St Michael's Players drama group

## Smisby

A modern village hall attracts people into the village to groups such as art classes, Ashby Photographic Society, the WI, and karate/aikido. St. James Church is the only church in the parish.

## Stanton-by-Bridge

As with Smisby and Ticknall, there is a well-used village hall hosting regular activities. St. Michael's Church is the only church in the village. One of the Churchwardens (Robert Wheat) hosts weekly village hall coffee mornings for village members and others from outside the village. These activities are extended for specific charity initiatives, e.g. Macmillan Cancer fund.

## Ticknall

There are numerous thriving groups and activities in Ticknall, mostly centred on the village hall (almost adjacent to the church). These include a fortnightly brunch group, walking, gardening, history, bowls, art, coffee and cricket clubs, a fortnightly toddler group, a Women's' Institute branch and an army cadet force section. Events and links to many of these are to be found via Facebook and at [www.ticknalllife.co.uk](http://www.ticknalllife.co.uk).



**Melbourne Parish Church logo based on the Melbourne Cross**

# Across the Benefice

Information for each parish in the Benefice concerning, styles of worship, offices, electoral roll and attendance numbers, seating capacity and internet presence is provided in Appendices 1 and 2.

A Benefice Bulletin email is produced every Friday by the Benefice Administrator. A 'Friday News' email also goes out every week from St. Georges, Ticknall. A monthly parish magazine is produced for Smisby, Stanton-by-Bridge and Ticknall, and distributed to every home in Ticknall.

All four churches in the benefice ensure that statutory and recommended checks and servicing are carried out on elements such as lightning protection systems, clocks and fire extinguishers.

## Melbourne

As a sacred space for 900 years, residents and visitors (many of them walkers) are drawn to Melbourne church which is opened daily by volunteers. The Church website gives much information [melbourneparishchurch.org.uk](http://melbourneparishchurch.org.uk). It is a member of the Major Churches Network.

### Choral tradition

Melbourne Parish Church has a rich choral tradition which we are keen to continue and nurture.

- The Choir has a high reputation both locally and nationally, due in part to its singing in cathedrals several times a year.
- Major festivals are marked with choral settings of the liturgy.
- In Ordinary Time the Choir leads us in several different Eucharistic settings and Psalmody.
- Compline is offered once per season.
- Services of music and readings are held in Advent, Passiontide and Christmas.
- Our Director of Music is keen to explore the possibility of providing training choirs for young singers to experience the Choral Tradition.
- Choir members play a full part in the wider life of the Church.
- The Congregation and wider community support the Choir on its trips to Cathedrals (4-5 per annum).





Melbourne bellringers

### **Bell ringers**

Our dedicated team of Bell-Ringers ring at morning and evening services and willingly ring for other services. There is a ring of 12 bells rung from the floor of the Church. Active encouragement is given to youngsters to become involved. The church regularly hosts competitions and the team competes successfully all-round the country.

### **The Friends of Melbourne Parish Church**

This charity was founded in September 2003 to preserve the Norman church by improving and developing its facilities, connecting it with the wider community and raising the church's profile nationally and internationally. The Friends have over 200 members and some 30 business and corporate supporters. It contributes regularly to capital projects to improve the church buildings and holds fundraising lectures and events in church throughout the year. It currently has nearly £24,000 in reserve. [www.friends-of-melbourne-parish-church.co.uk](http://www.friends-of-melbourne-parish-church.co.uk).

### **900-year celebrations - 2025**

Plans are underway to celebrate the foundation of Melbourne's Norman Church. A committee is working to bring to fruition ideas submitted by the community.



### **Ecumenical links**

The church denominations in Melbourn work well together. The Churches Together Committee meet three times a year organising two or three joint services annually. Together we deliver envelopes during Christian Aid Week and coordinate fund-raising activities. A 'Churches Together' wreath is laid on Remembrance Day at which all the churches participate. Other joint activities include a 'Carols round the Christmas' tree event. Christmas and Easter services at all the churches are publicised together in local newspapers and on joint posters, affirming the ministry at each of the churches.

### **Smisby**

The PCC supports the strongly expressed wish of members of the congregation that the BCP should continue to be the main focus of our Sunday worship; and that Smisby should continue its tradition of being middle of the road Anglican.

However, we do wish to encourage more people into the fellowship of the church and, now that there are more young families in the village, we are keen to explore other additional forms of worship that would encourage this.

We do not have a choir but on special occasions one of our organists encourages children from the village to form a choir. Our two organists bring a variety of musical styles to worship and encourage enthusiastic singing from 'Hymns Ancient & Modern' and 'Songs of Fellowship.' The choir from Ticknall has visited us for the occasional special service.

St James Church is a Grade 1 listed building, said to have been founded as a chapel of ease by the Canons of Repton Priory in the 11th century. There is more about the church at [www.smisby.org.uk](http://www.smisby.org.uk). Several years ago, the PCC combined the vestry with a storage area to create a larger vestry with disabled toilet and a small kitchen area.

The PCC is on top of the urgent and medium-term work arising from the last Quinquennial. Most of the work from the 2019 Quinquennial, is due to be completed in September 2024. The outstanding works are repointing the tower and reroofing the vestry with the 2024 Quinquennial due to be carried out in October.

For many years now Smisby PCC has supported the Betel organisation, a group of not-for-profit Christian communities dedicated to working with people from troubled backgrounds including the homeless and long-term unemployed.

### **Stanton-by-Bridge**

The oldest part of the church dates back to Saxon times. There are two Norman arches and subsequent additions to the building fabric including a reredos of local Chellaston Alabaster. The building and churchyard are in good repair. The work recommended in the last quinquennial report (2020) is completed and there are no major works outstanding. The church stands in a small burial ground, which is still open but with limited capacity.

### **Ticknall**

The current church of St George's is Victorian, its predecessor, the ruins of which still stand in the churchyard, having been deliberately destroyed. The church is opened on a daily basis by volunteers. Ticknall has a (robed) choir, currently comprising around 16 ladies and no men, which nevertheless achieves a good standard of sung worship, including, on occasion, settings of the Lord's Prayer and challenging anthems.

The ten bells of Ticknall church are rung every Sunday. This group practices regularly and frequently hosts visiting teams and bell-ringing competitions. External choral groups and musicians appreciate the outstanding acoustics of the church building, often providing secular concerts that draw in a wide range of audiences.

There is a well-equipped kitchen and two toilets (one accessible to the mobility impaired). The church is in generally good condition with repair costs met through the healthy financial status of the Fabric Fund. The churchyard is maintained by volunteers; part is mown and part remains wild.



Ticknall Church



Whistlewood Common

## Worship Pattern

Benefice services, bringing together all four congregations, are hosted by one of the churches in the Benefice on special occasions and Festivals. These may be morning or evening services. On the fifth Sunday during the Vacancy, the four parishes hold a Benefice service in one of the churches as the only service that Sunday. This service reflects the worship of the church in which it is held and helps unite the Benefice.

**Appendix 2 lists the services at each parish church.**

Some examples of well attended occasional services include:

- Remembrance Day services, which are held across the Benefice. In Melbourne the service is followed by the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial. This is led by the incumbent and attended by some 1,000 people with representatives from all local organisations, including The Royal British Legion, Grenadier Guards, councillors, the Town Band, scouts and guides.
- Christingle services across the Benefice – last year's service in Melbourne on Christmas Eve attracted around 150 children and 225 adults.
- Harvest Festival services, when each parish sends its gifts to local food banks, charities and the housebound.



Holiday club in the vicarage garden

## Life Events Ministry

All four parishes operate open Baptism policies with services by arrangement with families. Melbourne Baptisms are usually part of the monthly 10.30 am All-age Services or on Sunday afternoon. Contact with Baptism families is nurtured through birthday cards and invitations from The Friends to participate in the life of the church, including Junior Church. It has been the policy to offer confirmation classes for YR6 upwards.

Re-marriage of divorcees in any of the four churches is at the discretion of the vicar. Regular wedding surgeries are held in the benefice with an open morning in January for all couples planning to marry in church that year. The churches currently bless same sex marriage but do not presently perform the marriage service between same sex couples (although authorised to do so by the Bishop of Derby).

## Mission & Ministry Activities

### Melbourne

More information about groups linked to the parish can be found on the Church Life page of our website [melbourneparishchurch.org.uk](http://melbourneparishchurch.org.uk) but these groups are described briefly below:

**Angels' Delight** is our carers and pre-school group held twice a month in term time in church, attracting 20-24 children.

**Living Waters** is a house-group for Bible study and prayer, which meets once a month. People of all denominations are welcome.

**Junior Church** meets during school term time, with children from 3 to 11 gathering for Bible stories, music, craft and prayers. Pro-active strategies realistically anticipate welcoming new families to worship at the church in the near future.

**Messy Church** takes place, normally on Saturday afternoons, about five or six times a year. Attendance averages 15 children.

**Church Holiday Club** – twenty children attended the first club in May 2024.

The **Framing the Future** project was initiated by the PCC in 2021 as the church started to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic. It looked at all aspects of church life with a specific focus on enabling the congregation to contribute their time and talents. Initiatives have included establishing regular communications with those unable to attend church, increasing awareness of church activities within the wider village community, study days at key times in the church's year (Advent and Lent), establishing a pop-up café during the Melbourne Festival and the reintegration of Baptisms into Sunday morning worship. While the project has had a positive impact on church life, some impetus has been lost. We look forward to working with the new Incumbent.

[melbourneparishchurch.org.uk/framing-the-future](http://melbourneparishchurch.org.uk/framing-the-future)

Regular Community Outreach activities offer fellowship and generate funds for charity. To this end refreshments are served at the end of every 10.30am service but also:

- Lent Lunches offer a simple soup and cheese lunch, with the profits going to benefit Calcutta Cathedral Relief.
- Teas are served during the Festival and at Summer fêtes in Church House and, with the vicar's agreement, in the vicarage garden; a pop-up café is set up in church for the Christmas Fayre. Reviving the former practice of serving summer teas in the vicarage garden every Sunday awaits the consideration of the new Incumbent.
- In Advent a travelling crib moves from shop to shop and the church has a stall at Melbourne Christmas Shopping Night; a Community Carol Service is held mid-week to show our appreciation of local businesses.
- Caring Hands, a knitting group for charitable causes started by church members, continues to meet at the Royal British Legion.

## Ticknall

Ticknall Church is well embedded in its community and reaches out to non-churchgoers through traditional means such as life events, annual flower and Christmas tree festivals, participation in the fete organised by the independent village school, lunches and coffee mornings. Fund-raising activities are organised by a small team known as St Georges Group. At such events, refreshments help to draw in non-churchgoers from the village, as well as visitors from further afield. There is scope to develop the outreach work of the parish.





# Ministry Team

We benefit from a committed Ministry team who lead worship throughout the Benefice. During the current vacancy, the Associate Priest and the Ministry team are providing support to maintain as much continuity as possible.

## The current team members are:

**Associate Priest:** Revd. Alan Winfield,

**Retired Clergy :** Revd. Canon Richard Andrews (former Canon Precentor of Derby Cathedral) and Revd. Canon Tony Barnard (former Canon Chancellor of Lichfield Cathedral)

**Readers:** Canon David Edwards and Dr. Nick Gravestock

The staff team is supported by Kate Bedford, the Benefice Administrator, plus:

### in Melbourne

**Churchwardens:** Rachael Peckham and Rachel Coupe  
**Director of Music:** Simon Collins (Honorarium)  
**Safeguarding Officer:** Jenny Halliday

### in Smisby

**Churchwarden/Treasurer:** Gary Margerrison  
**Organists:** John Lord and Hazel Salt  
**Safeguarding and PCC Secretary:** Canon David Edwards

### in Stanton by Bridge

**Churchwardens:** Bob Wheat and Andrew Baldwin  
**Organist:** Susan Smith

### in Ticknall

**Churchwarden/Treasurer:** Mary Hirst  
**Choir leader:** Jenny Stewart  
**Pianist:** Simon Melen  
**Safeguarding:** Sue Browne  
**Synod Representatives:** Mary Hirst and Maggie Fenby-Taylor (also Lay Chair of Mercia Deanery)

All the churches rely on volunteers to serve as vergers, crucifers/servers, lesson readers, intercessors, sidespeople, cleaners grass mowers and cleaners etc.

# Church Buildings & Vicarage

Smisby, Stanton-by-Bridge and Ticknall parishes do not have responsibility for any buildings other than a church. In Melbourne, the vicarage, Church House and St. Michael's House are an integral part of the Church. The parish church and associated buildings are described in some detail on the website. <https://melbourneparishchurch.org.uk/the-church-building>



**Melbourne Vicarage with (attached to the left), Church House containing the Church offices (4 small windows and its own entrance). Behind is the vicarage garden overlooking Melbourn Pool and St. Michael's House (red brick behind right) containing the Church kitchen, toilets, meeting rooms and choir facilities.**

## **Melbourne Vicarage**

Standing in close proximity to Melbourn Church is the home of the Incumbent - a four bedroomed vicarage, its garden possessing one of the great views over the 20-hectare Melbourn Pool. Details of the accommodation are given on the church website:

[melbourneparishchurch.org.uk](https://melbourneparishchurch.org.uk)

## **Church House**

Church House (to the left of the vicarage) houses the Parish office, two meeting rooms (one opening onto the vicarage garden), a toilet, kitchen, storage and a private entrance into the vicarage. The PCC and The Friends recently contributed extensively to its refurbishment and decoration.

## **St. Michael's House**

These previously derelict out-buildings (to the right of the vicarage) were renovated recently with funding from the PCC and The Friends. This provides additional parish rooms and facilities for the choir and Junior Church, offering for the first time, accessible toilets, a kitchen for church events and storage space. It enables the west end of the Church to be free of clutter.

# Mission Action Plan

There is no MAP either within the parishes or across the Benefice. We believe the Framing the Future initiative described above, provides a possible starting point for the development of a MAP and we look forward to working with the next incumbent on this.

## Finance

Clergy expenses and Benefice Administrator/Safeguarding Administrator costs are shared between the four parishes.

The table below shows, for each parish, income and parish share, the proportion actually paid by each parish and restricted funds/long-term investments held.

	Melbourne	Smisby	Stanton by Bridge	Ticknall
<b>Income 2023</b>	<b>£71,866</b>	<b>£24,201</b>	<b>£6,670</b>	<b>£23,346</b>
<b>Common Fund Share 2023</b>	<b>£63,691</b>	<b>£10,524</b>	<b>£7,703</b>	<b>£9,000</b>
<b>Proportion Paid 2023</b>	<b>£36,000 (56.5%)</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£3,410 (44%)</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Common Fund Share 2024</b>	<b>£52,750<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>£9,912</b>	<b>£7,190</b>	<b>£9,000<sup>2</sup></b>

Notes to table:

1. Melbourne PCC has agreed to pay its share in full from 2025 in return for the Diocese's commitment to refurbish Melbourne Vicarage.
2. To be confirmed.

**More detailed information on finances for each parish can be obtained from:**

Melbourne: [treasurer@melbourneparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@melbourneparishchurch.co.uk)

Smisby: [gam283@aol.com](mailto:gam283@aol.com)

Stanton-by-Bridge: [stantonbybridge@msn.com](mailto:stantonbybridge@msn.com)

Ticknall: [revd.alanw@gmail.com](mailto:revd.alanw@gmail.com)

## Safeguarding

The Diocese of Derby is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders and volunteers are expected to share this commitment. Click here for further information on our [commitment to safeguarding](#). All appointments are subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks, including a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check.

## Privacy Notice

Your data is processed in line with our [Privacy Notice](#).

**Appendix 1: Electoral roll and attendance numbers, styles of worship, offices, seating capacity and internet presence for each parish details in table format.**

	<b>Style of Worship</b>	<b>Electoral roll and seating capacity</b>	<b>Internet presence</b>	<b>Offices</b>
<b>Melbourne</b>	Worship in the parish is primarily Eucharistic with choir and vestments, within a modern liberal catholic tradition	Electoral roll 163  Church can seat 400 people but good sightlines for 150 seated.	<a href="http://www.melbourneparishchurch.org">www.melbourneparishchurch.org</a>	15-20 Baptisms each year and typically 10-15 marriages. 15-20 funerals per annum.  Burials take place in the Parish Council cemetery. Cremations usually take place at Bretby or at Trent Valley, both around 8 miles away.
<b>Stanton-by-bridge</b>	Common Worship (modern language)	Electoral roll 11 Seating capacity 100	No website	Typically one wedding, one baptism and two funerals a year.
<b>Smisby</b>	BCP remains focus of Sunday worship. Middle of the road Anglican.	Electoral roll 18 Seating capacity is 80 though on special occasions this has exceeded 100.	<a href="http://www.smisby.org.uk">www.smisby.org.uk</a>	Typically one baptism, one wedding and two funerals a year
<b>Ticknall</b>	Middle of the road Anglican	Electoral roll 26 Seating capacity 100	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100080461150627">www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100080461150627</a>	Typically one or two baptism, 3-4 weddings and 5-6 funerals a year.

A typical week will see 130 - 150 worshippers attending services in the benefice.

In Melbourne there will currently be between 15 and 20 communicants at 8am, 40 to 60 at 10am and about 30 (including choir) at Choral Evensong.

The average at Smisby for all services is about 26 with more on special occasions.

Average attendance at Stanton is 9 adults. Ticknall's congregation is typically in the 15 – 30 range.

## Appendix 2: Details of services for each parish in table format.

		<b>Melbourne</b>	<b>Smisby</b>	<b>Stanton by Bridge</b>	<b>Ticknall</b>
<b>Sunday Services</b>	Eucharist*	8am	5.30pm 1st Sun	11am 1st and 3rd Sun	9.15am 1st and 3rd Sun
	Sung Eucharist	10.30am			
	Choral Evensong (once a month)	6.30pm			
	BCP		5.30pm 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sun	11am 4th Sun	9.15am 2nd and 4th Sun
<b>Services</b>	Said Eucharist	Thursday 9.15am			Informal service Monday
	Vicar's morning and evening private prayer**	8.30am 5.30pm			

Occasional services: Information about Occasional Services across the Benefice - Maundy Thursday, Mothering Sunday, Patronal Festivals, Harvest Festivals, All Souls, Remembrance Services, Carols etc can be accessed through the Melbourne Church website <https://melbourneparishchurch.org.uk/melbourne-benefice>

It is hoped to promote Walking and Forest Church at Ticknall to explore fresh expressions of worship.

Notes: All churches in the Benefice serve refreshments after Sunday services

\*Common Worship Order 1 in traditional language

\*\* Some past incumbents have used the church for their morning and evening prayer encouraging members of the parish to join them.