



Honiton Mission Community

We are looking to appoint a full time, mission orientated, Team Rector who will not only encourage and strengthen our six mission community churches but will also have the vision to develop and grow the next generation of our church family.



Who are we?

Our mission community is centered around our group of six friendly churches in East Devon which comprises of :

- St Paul's Church, Honiton
- St Michael & All Angels, Awliscombe
- St Mary & St Giles, Buckerell
- St Nicholas, Combe Raleigh
- St Michael's, Coteleigh
- St Michael's & All Angels, Gittisham

We'll introduce our churches a bit later but first let's talk about our vision and the person we are looking for ...

A Message from Bishop Mike, Bishop of Exeter

Our vision in this diocese is that of Jesus in His Great Commission. We aspire to appoint leaders of our Christian communities who practice the presence of our Lord and enable others to do so; leaders who witness, act and relate in ways which make disciples and enable others to do so; leaders who serve in ways which intrigue, attract and engage the wider community, and enable others to do so. In short – pray, grow and serve!

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20



So we are looking for ministerial leaders who

- are intentionally missional, helping their Christian community to discern who God is sending them to, and who God is sending them.
- are developing missional habits and confidence in the faith for members of their congregations, enabling them to be invitational and ambassadorial
- invest in their own discipleship and well-being, and that of those in their care
- cultivate vocations, lay and ordained, actively recruiting for initiatives such as the Foundations course and the Exeter Ordination Pathway
- place children and young people at the heart of our mission, orienting churches to be ever-more welcoming spaces for young people, using existing resources and networks, but also being pioneering in outlook
- experiment with ways of being and doing church that engage the unengaged – we encourage ambitious plans such as creating two new worshipping communities in the first three years of a new ministry.

You can expect to find

- support from senior leaders committed to enabling this mission and ministry
- an outstanding diocesan team, second to none in terms of training provision and opportunities, comms understanding, finance expertise, buildings experience and care for our ministers
- opportunities for personal and professional development in alignment with the vision of the Great Commission
- a warm, relational diocese, where diversity is welcomed and honoured
- a good-humoured, joyful, energetic culture grateful for the privilege of being called into ministry and supportive of missional experimentation, risk-taking and ‘having a go’

If you’re still reading then I suspect we might be on the same page and I pray that the Holy Spirit might inform, shape and direct your discernment concerning this post.

The Archdeacon's Foreword

Welcome and thank you for your interest in this post

This post offers an amazing opportunity to minister in one of our market town communities. The churches within this mission community share a strong desire to work together, build on firm foundations, and take bold steps towards becoming more mission-focused as they journey into the future.

Like many communities in Devon, there are challenges, an ageing demographic, questions of sustainability, and the practical realities of buildings and finance. Yet there is real hope here, and a deep commitment to growth and renewal.

We are seeking a priest with a heart for pastoral care and a clear vision for mission, someone who will inspire and equip others, bringing energy, creativity, and innovation to the role of incumbent. You will be supported initially by a gifted and imaginative Team Vicar, Training Curate & LLM; an Area Bishop who has the well-being of the clergy and the mission of our church among children and families as priorities, and an Archdeacon who will support your ministry practically and pastorally. Together, we will help these parishes flourish.

The Honiton Mission Community is multi-parishes benefice serving the town of Honiton and a number of villages. We hope the new Team Rector will work with us as we explore how we minister across East Devon's market towns and rural villages. The benefice is part of the Honiton Deanery, where the Rural Dean is the Revd Julie Lomas.

We are committed to being a diverse and representative diocese and warmly welcome applications from women and those from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds. Devon is not only a beautiful place to call home, but it is also a diocese where community, creativity, and collaboration thrive.

If you would like a confidential conversation about this post, please do get in touch. We look forward to welcoming you to the Diocese of Exeter.

Overview

- Population: 1.2m,
- 120 Mission Communities
- 483 parishes, 594 churches
- Worshipping community of 20,000



Served By

- 3 Bishops
- 4 Archdeacons
- 188 Stipendiary clergy
- 54 SSMs, 197 LLMs,
- 134 church schools



3 Major Urban Areas

- Plymouth (population: 265,000)
- Exeter (population: 135,000)
- Torbay (population: 141,000)



Coastal & Market Towns

- Over 50 towns (population: 373,000)
- 5 large towns (population: > 20,000)
- 14 towns (population: > 10,000)
- Expected to grow by 40,000



The Archdeacon of Exeter

The Venerable Andrew Beane

07898932654

ade@exeter.anglican.org



The Bishop of Crediton

The Rt. Rev'd Moira Astin

bishop.of.crediton@exeter.anglican.org

To contact the PA to the Bishop of Crediton, please contact Lawder Smith on 01884 250002 or lawder.smith@exeter.anglican.org

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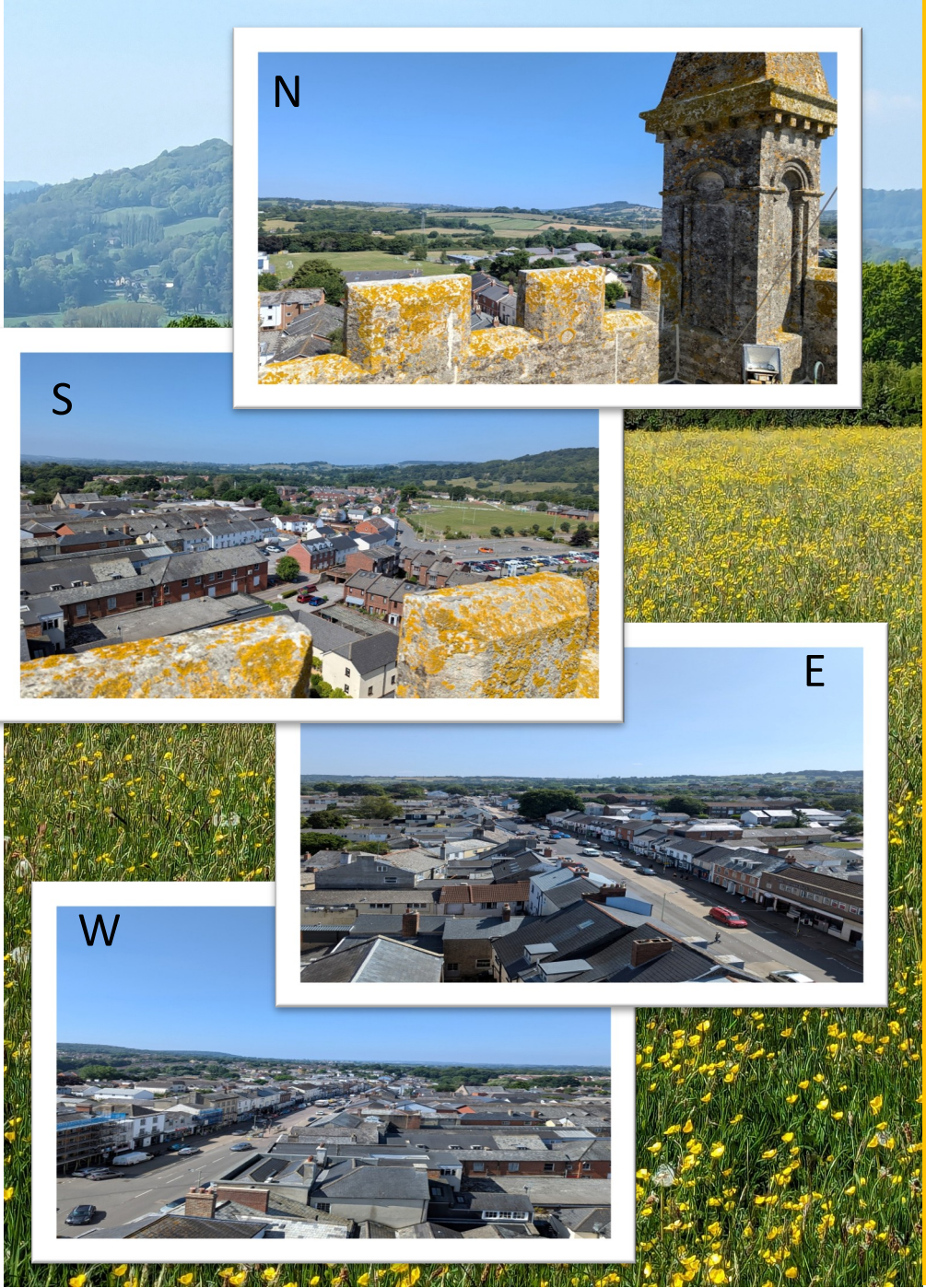


Our Five Missional Priorities



**PRAY
GROW
SERVE**
2035 Inspiring Faith in Devon





OUR VISION

Our vision can be summed up in one word: GROW.

- We want to see a new, younger generation growing up in our mission community churches to continue the work of building the Kingdom of God in our area.
- We want to see our regular congregations being strengthened and encouraged in their faith and increasing in number.
- We want our mission community churches growing together with a sense of family and purpose.
- We want to see relationships with our town and village communities continuing to develop and grow.
- In short, we want to see growth in every area of our personal, church family and missional life together.

So, what sort of person are we looking for ...



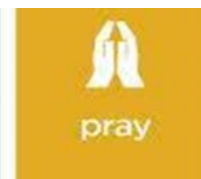


Who are we looking for?

We are looking for a Team Rector who has a missional heart and will ...

- Embrace the challenge of growing and developing the next generation of our church family so that the work of the Kingdom of God grows within our mission community.
- Is comfortable working across a wide range of worship traditions and styles to build up, strengthen and encourage our congregations.
- Understands the need for developing a church life style that is relevant for today's generation and makes our church life accessible to all.
- Has a strong faith and will make prayer and the Word of God foundational in our church life.
- Is able to recognise the gifting of people within our mission community family and will develop a teamwork environment.
- Will have a pastoral heart and will regularly work from St Paul's Church so they are readily available and accessible to everybody.
- Understands the character and needs of a rural community
- Continue building bridges with our town and village communities especially with our local schools.
- Has an inclusive viewpoint.

So, now let's meet the churches



Welcome!

to the Honiton Mission Community

The Honiton Mission Community is situated within the beautiful countryside of East Devon and is surrounded by the Blackdown Hills to the north and the east and an AONB towards the south. We are just a short drive from the seaside towns of Sidmouth and Lyme Regis and close by is the Jurassic Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Daniel Defoe in 1724 praised the view of the countryside around Honiton as 'the most beautiful landscape in the world' and, of course, he was absolutely right! We all feel very blessed to be able to live in this lovely area.

We have good transport links, with Honiton Station being on the Exeter to Waterloo line and both the M5 motorway and Exeter Airport only a 20 minute drive away. There is also a local bus service to the nearby towns and villages.

There are three thriving primary schools in the area - Awliscombe, which is a church school, and two state schools in Honiton - along with Honiton Community College for secondary education.



St Paul's, Honiton



St Michael & All Angels, Awliscombe



St Mary & St Giles, Buckerell



St Michael, Cotleigh



St Nicholas, Combe Raleigh



St Michael's & All Angels, Gittisham





Welcome to St Paul's church, Honiton

Honiton is a lovely, small market town known for its rich history, especially lacemaking and pottery, and has a growing population which is currently approximately 12,500. It's many amenities, apart from the schools which we've already mentioned, include a doctor's surgery, a small hospital, two dental practises, three vets, a sports centre & swimming pool, the Bee Hive community centre, three supermarkets, a library, along with various shops, restaurants, coffee shops and pubs.

The town has many festival events during the year and these include the Honiton Agricultural Show, Honiton Hill Rally, Charter Day, Hot Pennies, Gate to Plate and the Honiton Carnival. It's a great place to live.

St Paul's Church enjoys a prominent position in the centre of Honiton High Street and this gives us a great opportunity to be at the heart of the town's community life and the festival events. Our large church Hall, which is next to the church, is also regularly used by many town community groups.

We have a parish office where our church administrator works all day on Tuesdays and in the morning on a Thursday and Friday.



St Paul's church, Honiton

We offer a variety of worship services to meet the spiritual needs of our congregation and these include:

- Weekly sung communion at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings.
- Hope Church, an informal and inclusive service, which is currently held monthly at 9:30 am.
- A weekly communion service every Wednesday at 11:00 am
- Monthly communion service at 8:00 am on a Sunday morning.
- We also have additional services throughout the year at Easter, Harvest, and Christmas.

St Paul's is a busy church with the following events taking place:

- Toasty Tuesdays (breakfast & coffee morning) and Saturday coffee mornings.
- Celtic prayers at 9.00am on Mondays and Prayers for Ukraine on Thursdays.
- A weekly Craft Group on Fridays.
- A fortnightly fellowship & Bible study group on a Thursday morning.
- A monthly Mothers' Union meeting.

We have achieved the Eco Church silver award and we support Fairtrade.





St Paul's Church, Honiton

However, we must be realistic about our situation and say that the workers are few. The average congregation at Sunday's 11am service is 50 with an average age of probably mid-seventies. We have no children or young families and few middle-aged members. We recognise that the long-term future of St Paul's depends on us raising the church family of tomorrow and so to that end we are using this vacancy as an opportunity to prayerfully consider and discuss our vision for the future.

Financially, we are currently in a good state but, based on our current income and expenditure, we could find ourselves in a very challenging financial situation in the next few years.

Despite these challenges, we do believe that St Paul's has great potential and with the right Team Rector we are confident that God will lead us into a new season of mission and growth. Our prayer is that St Paul's would grow into a vibrant, inclusive and outward looking church that shares the good news of Jesus with our town.

As part of this revisoning, in 2023 the Exeter Diocese asked Rev'd Tracey Voysey to join our team to build a new, younger congregation. From that we have started Hope Church and more is said about that on the next page.

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HOPE CHURCH at St Paul's

HOPE Church is a monthly, 45 minute informal, inclusive service for everyone which we introduced in May 2024.

The response has been very encouraging and we received the following comments from a review we did in May 2025:

'It always explains what the Bible says'

'Everyone is cheerful and friendly'

'Children and adults together is just lovely'

'Always a friendly face at the door'

'Warmth throughout the service adds to the whole feel of welcome'

'It's wonderful to be able to worship freely and not be judged by anyone! Non-Christians would not feel intimidated'

'I find it uplifting, there is hope for the future of the Church of England and it's happening here!'

A visitor recently said, '.... *the prayerful praise, confidence and joy, particularly at the start. What impressed me most was how the worship came from 'the heart' and is an example to all who lead and share faith together. Thank you.'*

We feel that HOPE Church is an integral part of the future of St Pauls and so the new Team Rector would have to continue developing this style of service.

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The Rectory, Honiton

The Rectory is a large 4 bedroom detached house, in Honiton, which was built in the mid 1990's specifically as a Rectory. The study and downstairs WC are separated from the family living space. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, one with ensuite and a family bathroom. There is a large double garage and the driveway has enough room to park 4-5 cars on it. The House is about a 10 minute walk to the church.



pray



grow



serve
with joy

Welcome to St Michael's and All Angels, Awliscombe

The village setting

The rural parish of Awliscombe & Weston straddles the A373 Honiton-Cullompton road on the north west side of Honiton and includes the village of Awliscombe and the hamlet of Weston.

There is a parish hall in the centre of Awliscombe which is used for regular community events, including several organised by members of, and to raise money for, the church and/or local charities.

The busy Otter Inn in Weston, with its riverside garden, hosts the annual village fete, which is well supported by the wider village community and is a major fundraiser for the church.

The church building and churchyard

The medieval church of St Michael and All Angels, one of the larger village churches in the area, is generally in fair condition. We have done a significant amount of work in recent years to replace old lead on the roofs, to deal with water ingress issues and to rebuild a 25m section of leaning churchyard wall.

PCC finances are stable. We have paid our Common Fund (Parish Share) contribution in full in recent years, and expect to do so in 2026.

Worship

The welcoming and inclusive community at St Michael's holds services on the first, third and fourth Sunday of each month, including a "New Life" lay-led service which is led in rotation by one of four teams. There is a weekly said communion service on Thursday mornings at 10.00am.



St Michael's and All Angels, Awliscombe

Average attendance at Sunday services is in the teens. The total number of participants noted on our most recent return to the Diocese was 24

The church and the community

While only a small fraction of the parish attend church services regularly, a much larger proportion, we believe, see the church and it's activities as an important part of village life:

- The success of our primary school is evidence that families across the parish and beyond appreciate the value of an education based on Christian values.
- Church services around the major festivals are very well supported: the church is usually full for the Christmas carol service and the Christingle service on Christmas Eve.
- Many people in the village who do not wish to attend services regularly nevertheless actively support the church in other ways, by joining the Friends of St Michael's (see below) and/or church cleaning or flower rotas.
- The various village events organised by - and generally to raise funds for - the church, such as the Summer fete, the Harvest Supper and the Christmas market, are well supported by the wider village community.
- As in many communities, there are a great many people who rarely, if ever, attend regular church services, but fully expect that the major ceremonies of their lives - baptism, marriage and burial - will be celebrated in their parish church.

Given the local community's support for St Michael's, we believe that growing our congregation is not only desirable but achievable, and we would support the appointment of a rector with the energy and charisma to help us achieve that.



St Michael's and All Angels, Awliscombe

Friends of St Michael's

The Friends (or "FoSM") was launched in 2022 with the aim of encouraging support for, and greater use of, the church building. It's principle aim is to help fund repairs or improvements to the fabric of the church.

Several events are organised each year, making the most of St Michael's as an event venue, performance space, or simply much loved heart of the village, as well as to raise funds.

Since launch, fund-raising efforts have been directed towards the construction of a new building in the churchyard to house a composting toilet and store room. We now have the faculty for this and expect to start construction in 2026.

Thereafter the Friends will raise funds towards an ambitious internal re-ordering of St Michael's which, subject to local consultation and the necessary consents, may extend to internal redecoration, replacement of pews with moveable chairs to create a more versatile space, improved lighting and heating, and other enhancements to enable school and community to use St Michael's more effectively.

The Friends have raised over £20,000 to date, and membership comprises 35 households, including some outside the village.



Awliscombe Church of England Primary School

Awliscombe Church of England (VA) Primary School

The Primary School stands next to the church in the centre of the village and has always had close links with it. The school currently (September 2025) has a roll of 95 children in four classes, with an on-site pre-school which shares space with the Reception class. With its outstanding ethos and highly supportive parent body, the school draws many children from outside the parish.

In 2015 the school entered into a federation with nearby Payhembury C of E (VC) Primary School, under a single governing board and with a single executive headteacher. The highly successful senior leadership team has remained in place since then and the federation has brought clear benefits to both schools.

Christian distinctiveness is strong, with daily acts of worship, including one each week in the church led by one of the Mission Community clergy, and prayer areas in each classroom. The team curate, Revd. Scott Angell, is a school governor and a regular visitor to the school. We would very much hope that the new team vicar would also get involved with the school, taking an ex officio role on the Governing Board (which meets six times per year) if possible.

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Welcome to St Mary & St Giles, Buckerell



Buckerell is a dynamic and active community with its 800 year old church at its centre. Lacking in size but not in energy, a small but regular village congregation attends two services a month - a village led Service and a Eucharist Service. Evensong is shared with other HMC churches but we would also welcome a BCP service every three months. Currently we have no Churchwarden but our PCC is very proactive.

The recently formed Friends of Buckerell Church join with the PCC arranging events and raising funds to enable the increasing use of St Mary and St Giles as a hub for the village as well as it being a place of worship and for those seeking peace. Recently the very successful Church Fete was held, for the first time, in the churchyard and coffee mornings, musical evenings, talks etc., bring in villagers who don't normally cross the threshold! Newcomers to Buckerell are warmly welcomed to the village and church but are not under pressure to attend every service. We find this pays off!

We feel blessed to be able to live in a particularly beautiful area of Devon in a kind, warm and supportive village with its ancient, historic church."

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Welcome to St Nicholas', Combe Raleigh

The Village

The parish of Combe Raleigh lies within the Blackdown Hills AONB, just north of Honiton across the River Otter. Running centrally, west to east from the church, is the main street of housing where approximately half the residents live. Farms, cottages and other dwellings are scattered throughout the rest of the parish.

The population numbers just under 200 with retirees in the majority. Since the village is not large enough to warrant a Parish Council, matters from EDDC are considered by a Parish Meeting.

The Church

The church, mainly 15th century, but with a 14th century tower is in a good state of repair. There is pew seating for around 100 and a dedicated children's area. In 2017, following several years of intensive fund-raising, the peal of three bells was augmented to six, a mezzanine ringing chamber built within the tower, and basic kitchen facilities installed beneath the ringing chamber. We have an active team of bell ringers and learners.

During this time we also fund-raised to install a composting toilet in the churchyard – much needed and greatly appreciated! The latest improvement has been to bring piped water into the tower beneath a newly-laid path. We have the use of a small car park opposite the church.

The churchyard is still open for burials and interment of ashes, and is well maintained.

St Nicholas', Combe Raleigh

Worship

There are 64 on the Electoral Roll. Two Eucharists and lay-led service are held each month with an average attendance of 18-20 and refreshments are served after each service. The number of worshippers increases considerably for major festivals.

A communion service is held once a month at Abbeyfield, a care home in the village.

Mission and Involvement

We are a welcoming and all-embracing congregation, actively involved in promoting Christian witness. The work of the church is well respected in the village and many who are not regular worshippers volunteer to help at special services and other events. On one Sunday a month we have an hour of hymn-singing, followed by tea. An annual Snowdrop Tea and a Plant Sale are our two major fund-raisers. Concerts, Christmas Tree Festivals, Flower Festivals and Open Garden weekends are other ventures that have featured in recent years.

We pay our Common Fund in full and make charitable donations at various times during the year.

Apart from the church, Combe Raleigh's only other community point is the Village Hall whose committee organises a variety of activities and functions – around one a month.

The village and church community join together in celebrating Harvest and Christmas.

Our vision is to relay the Christian message through the way in which we live our daily lives and through our involvement in all aspects of village life



Welcome to St Michael's, Cotleigh



St Michaels is a small but connected community with it's Grade two star listed church sitting on the edge of the village.

We have a recently refurbished cemetery serving the Parish and hold a regular monthly service along with celebration events and weddings funerals and christenings. Evensong is shared with other HMC churches.

Currently we have one Churchwarden and our PCC is very proactive.

Recently the very successful Village and Church Fete was held at the village community hall and field.

Newcomers to Cotleigh are warmly welcomed to the village and church but are not a regular occurrence and the lack of young people and families is a concern for the future. However, we understand that upwards of 300 new houses are to be built on Northcote Hill so maybe there is still hope for the future.

We feel blessed to live in the Blackdown Hills area of Devon with a kind, warm and supportive village and it's ancient, historic church.

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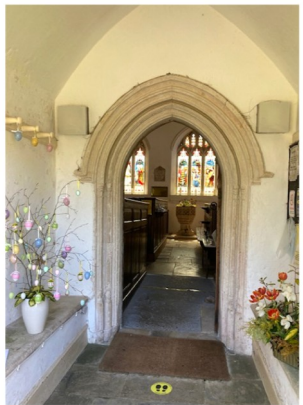


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Welcome to St Michael's and All Angels, Gittisham



St Michael's is a much loved and well cared for Parish Church whose origins go back to the C13th. It stands in the centre of the picturesque village of Gittisham and along with the Village Hall is the focus of an active community life, drawing in residents from the wider parish including the nearby Gittisham Vale estate and surrounding areas.

Our PCC and Village Hall Committee work together to organise social and fundraising events including the Village Fete that attracts people from near and far. One of the most popular events is a weekly 'Community Kitchen' on a Thursday evening that welcomes local residents of all ages including families with children and those living alone to share a freshly cooked meal. Many photos of both church and village events can be found on our Facebook page.

A small but faithful congregation gathers for a service of Holy Communion and a Lay Led Service each month. Our festival and special services are well supported and enjoyed by many. We are also blessed by a steady stream of visitors from around the world, some staying at the nearby 'Pig Hotel', the former seat of the Lords of the Manor, whose monuments can be seen in the church. Many visitors leave fascinating messages in our visitor's book about their ancestors and relatives who once lived in the village and are now buried in the churchyard.

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Honiton Mission Community—Sample of a Monthly Service Rota.

	HONITON - ST PAULS	AWLISCOMBE	BUCKERELL	COMBE RALEIGH	COTLEIGH	GITTISHAM
First Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy 9.30am HOPE Church Temporary Clergy 11.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy	9.30am Holy Communion Retired Clergy	10.00am Lay-led	3.00pm <i>Come and Sing</i> Lay-led	9.30am Holy Communion Retired Clergy	
Wednesday	11.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy					
Thursday		10.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy				
Second Sunday	11.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy			11.15am Holy Communion Retired Clergy		11.00am Holy Communion Retired Clergy
Wednesday	11.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy					
Thursday		10.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy				

	HONITON - ST PAULS	AWLISCOMBE	BUCKERELL	COMBE RALEIGH	COTLEIGH	GITTISHAM
Third Sunday	11.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy	9.30am Holy Communion Retired Clergy	10.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy	11.15am Lay-led		
Wednesday	11.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy					
Thursday		10.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy				
Fourth Sunday	11.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy	9.30am Lay Led		11.15am Holy Communion Retired Clergy		11.00 Lay Led
Wednesday	11.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy					
Thursday		10.00am Holy Communion Temporary Clergy				



St Paul's, Honiton



St Michael & All Angels, Awliscombe



St Mary & St Giles, Buckerell



St Michael, Cotleigh



St Nicholas, Combe Raleigh



St Michael's & All Angels, Gittisham

Thank you

Thank you for reading our mission community profile.

You've read our vision statement and seen the type of person that we are looking for. If you think this is for you then we would love to hear from you.

