

Parish Profiles – March 2026

St John the Baptist, Leusdon

Leusdon, Poundsgate, Devon TQ13 7PE

St Gabriel, Postbridge

Postbridge, Yelverton, Devon PL20 6SY

St Pancras, Widecombe-in-the-Moor

Widecombe in the Moor, Devon TQ13 7TA



Part of the Ashburton & Moorland Mission Community

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FOREWORD

From the Archdeacon of Totnes, The Ven. Douglas Dettmer



At the heart of the glorious county of Devon, Dartmoor is a landscape of exceptional beauty and power, deeply loved and respected by those who appreciate its distinctive character. It is emphatically rural, yet surprisingly accessible. Surrounded by remnants of the ancient past, its villages, hamlets and scattered farms are home to close-knit communities of people—some with local roots, others who have come from elsewhere to live here. In this context, the churches of the Ashburton & Moorland Team are living out our diocesan vision to grow in prayer, make new disciples, and serve the people of Devon with joy.

The new priest for Widecombe with Postbridge and Leusdon will live and work at the centre of this remarkable landscape. As the resident local minister, he or she will have the support of colleagues within a strong team including the Team Rector, the Revd Phill Parker; a house-for-duty Team Vicar, the Revd Canon John Bennett, based at Ilsington; a Mission Community Children, Youth & Families Worker; two Licensed Lay Ministers; a Team Administrator; and many other dedicated ordained and lay fellow-workers across the mission community. There are close links with the local Methodist circuit in the town and on the moor.

The Team’s strategy in its rural parishes is to encourage focal ministry led by resident priests serving on a part-time basis, embedded in their local communities and working collaboratively as a team with all the mutual support and sharing of diverse gifts that entails. The Team Rector manages administration, the charring of PCCs, and together with churchwardens the care of the church buildings, freeing up resident clergy and lay ministers for leading worship, offering pastoral care, and enabling the local church communities for mission and service in their parishes.

The **Right Revd Dr Mike Harrison** became **Bishop of Exeter** in November 2024 and since his arrival has continued to develop our diocesan vision for mission and ministry. Bishop Mike says: “The Diocese of Exeter’s vision to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy has evolved over the last five years, with a widespread post-pandemic listening consultation leading to the development of the [‘Next Steps’](#) strategy to support mission communities to flourish and be sustainable for generations to come. It’s a vision that fits with Jesus’ commission in Matthew 28.16-20, which is authoritative for me and I’m sure for many.



“Putting flesh on the bones of the vision, I would like to articulate five particular priorities for this next season of our life together. First, **Missional Leadership**: equipping and resourcing the ordained and lay leaders of our Christian communities as best as we can to develop disciples and make new disciples. Second, developing a “**Missional DNA**” across our Christian communities, encouraging outward-looking, invitational churches, hospitable to outsiders and engaged with their wider communities. Third, cultivating an intentional **Vocational Culture** so that we are not asking *whether* God is calling me / us, but *To what* is God calling me / us now?’ Fourth, **Children & Young People** being placed at the heart of our life, mission and ministry. And fifth, a **Mixed Ecology**: understanding that we need different ways of doing and being Church. Alongside time-honoured Church we need all sorts of Christian communities which can engage with the 95% of our population who are as yet unengaged. I hope that these five priorities

will become embedded at every level of our ministry going forward.”

Further information about our Diocesan Vision can be found at:

<https://exeter.anglican.org/who-we-are/vision-strategy/>



Deanery & Diocese

The Ashburton & Moorland benefice is part of Newton Abbot Deanery in central Devon, based around the market town of Newton Abbot with its mainline station offering a fast train service to London Paddington and westward to Cornwall. The dual-carriageway A38 runs through the benefice.

The new Team Vicar will be part of a mutually supportive deanery chapter, in the care of the Revd Andrew Down as Rural Dean.

We aim to be a diverse and truly representative diocesan community and particularly welcome applications from women and from people of global majority heritage. The Diocese of Exeter is a good place to be in ministry, and it is a particularly exciting time of growth and development in our diocesan life.

May God bless you as you continue to discern whether you might be called to this ministry; do be in touch with me directly if you would value a confidential conversation about the post.

With my best wishes,

Douglas Dettmer, Archdeacon of Totnes

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SUMMARY OF THE ROLE

Welcome to the Ashburton and Moorland Mission Community and thank you for showing an interest in becoming our new Team Vicar. We hope you find our Parish Profiles interesting and informative.

We are seeking a new priest for a house for duty position, working two days per week plus services on Sundays. Although working within a Team Ministry, you will be the primary lead for the parishes of Widecombe-in-the-Moor with Postbridge and Leusdon.

The role does not involve responsibility for parish administration, church building maintenance, charring the PCC, etc. as the Team Rector will oversee those areas. Instead, we aim to free our resident minister to focus his or her time on worship, pastoral care and community life in the parish. We wish to build on the legacy of our previous vicar who forged strong links with our community while extending the opportunities for variety in worship and lay leadership.

The successful applicant will be based in Widecombe-in-the-Moor, a charming village where there is a spacious 4-bedroom vicarage close to the centre of this welcoming local community.

Person Specification

We are open to either a male or female priest.

We are open to a priest near the beginning, middle or latter portion of their ministry.

We are open to a priest who has previously been stipendiary, but also not.

Our preference is for a priest who feels at ease with a broad range of worship.

Our congregations generally applaud and have experienced women's ministry in all roles and would wish to appoint a priest who is supportive of this view.

Qualities we would like to see in our priest (not in any particular order):

- A person with a heart for young people, and work within our local schools.
- Good with people and able to resource, encourage and oversee a pastoral care team.
- Good at enabling others to develop their gifts.
- Sees the importance of identifying and nurturing lay ministers.
- Able and happy to work with other colleagues whether licensed, lay or ordained.
- Happy to integrate into rural community life.
- Enthusiasm for the Gospel and engaging with people.

Overall – a priest who can accept us (congregation, village and community) as we are and help us to grow into what we can be; to the glory of God for the sake of His kingdom.

All within the context of the Exeter Diocese Mission Statement

As God's pilgrim people, we seek to share in the mission of God as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ by:

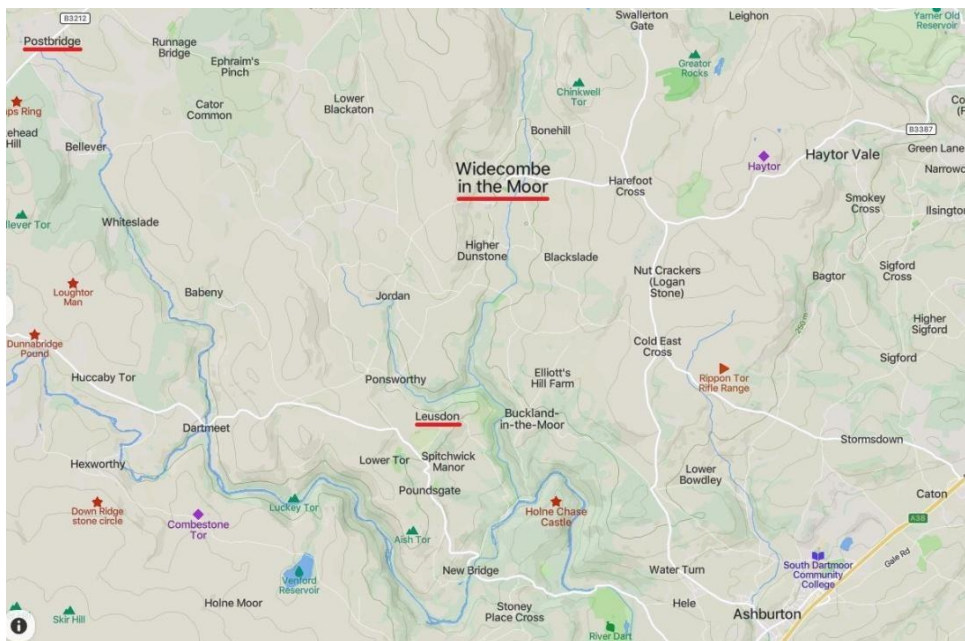
**Growing in prayer
Making new disciples
Serving the people of Devon with joy**

Geographical Setting

Widecombe-in-the-Moor is a civil parish situated within the bounds of the Dartmoor National Park and includes the communities of Widecombe-in-the-Moor and Leusdon. Postbridge is located in the adjoining civil parish of Dartmoor Forest.

The ecclesiastical parish of Widecombe-in-the-Moor, said to be the second largest in Devon, has two churches; the parish church of St Pancras in Widecombe, and the district church of St Gabriel in Postbridge.

The church of St John the Baptist is located in the ecclesiastical parish of Leusdon which comprises the southern part of the civil parish of Widecombe-in-the-Moor, its southern boundary being the river Dart and the river Webburn. There are close connections between Leusdon and Widecombe with children from Leusdon attending Widecombe primary school.



The small but characterful village of Widecombe-in-the-Moor is located about five and a half miles north west of the ancient market town of Ashburton and seven miles from Bovey Tracey to the east. The village lies within the valley of the East Webburn River and is surrounded by granite tors.

From Widecombe, the car journey to Leusdon takes around 10 minutes and to Postbridge about 20 minutes along pleasant country lanes and open moorland.

There is a wide range of food and drink producers in the National Park where produce can be bought direct from farms, village shops and specialist retailers. Nearby Ashburton, Bovey Tracey and Moretonhampstead have small supermarkets and a good mixture of shops. Larger supermarkets and chain stores can be found in Newton Abbot.

Although we are a rural area, the cities of Exeter and Plymouth are only 45 minutes away via the A38, the main thoroughfare through south Devon. Newton Abbot is a large town with most facilities and many brand-name stores around 30 minutes away, and provides easy access to rail connections. The coast is easily accessible with Teignmouth, Dawlish and Torquay 40-50 minutes away, south coast beaches only 1 hour away, and the north coast a 2-hour drive.

Our Church Buildings

St John the Baptist, Leusdon



Leusdon Church was built in 1863 financed largely by Mrs Charlotte Rosamund Larpent who also built a school nearby which was closed in the 1930's. It occupies a remarkable geographic position, about 850 feet above sea level with nearby views of St Peter's Church at Buckland-in-the-Moor, Buckland Beacon, the River Dart valley, a more distant view of St Mary's Church at Totnes and almost to the coast. The Grade 2 building is a fine example of Victorian architecture in granite. The slate roof has recently been renewed, the tower clock has been overhauled,

and the one-hundred-year-old organ has been rebuilt. The west window was replaced with stained glass in memory of Mrs Larpent and we have two beautiful smaller stained-glass windows in memory of the Bolitho brothers, one of whom was killed at the battle of the Somme in 1915. The east window is of original stained glass. The oak reredos and the oak choir stalls were installed in memory of the Struben family of Spitchwick Manor. Although the bell tower has a frame for five bells only one was installed; it was re-hung at the millennium.

The church is in good condition and attracts many walkers as it is on the route of many published walks including the Two Moors Way; they are able to sit and rest after a steep climb and enjoy the remarkable view. We are currently seeking permissions for a toilet at the church to aid both churchgoers and pilgrims alike.

St Gabriel, Postbridge

Built in 1860 the church also served as a school for a while during the Second World War. There are lovely carvings by Violet Pinwill on the pews, pulpit and lectern.

The church has a pretty lych gate with varying-coloured rhododendrons alongside the path and a wild flower garden at the back creating a peaceful place for people to visit. While being situated on a busy (by Dartmoor standards) road, the expanse of grass surrounding the church, combined with the floral features, make it a very pleasant space for passers-by to spend time, and the church is open to visitors.

The village hall and its car park are located just next door, aiding accessibility and connection with the community.



St Pancras, Widecombe



The church of St Pancras is often referred to as the 'Cathedral of the Moor' due to the size of the tower and its relatively large capacity, for such a small village. The author Bill Bryson wrote, "I could hardly think of a better example of a church enhancing its landscape (and vice versa) than this treasure in the exquisite village in Dartmoor, Devon. At 120 feet its tower is one of the most striking on a country church anywhere in the country. Go inside by all means, you won't regret it, but don't fail also to view the church and

village from any of the neighbouring hillsides. It is one of the great views of England."

It is thought the church was completed around 1500AD with the tower being the last part to be built, funded by the wealth generated by tin mining in the Parish. Today, St. Pancras is a much-loved parish church for the local community and attracts many visitors from all over the world. Our church guide book and display boards provide information for visitors. The headstones in the churchyard provide a historical record of the local families. The visitor's book is full of praise for St Pancras as an inspirational, comforting and welcoming place of worship. Seasonal services throughout the year attract many from the local community who are not regular members of the congregation.

The tower houses a peal of 8 bells that are rung every Sunday before the service, at Wednesday practice, for weddings, other special services and an annual bellringing competition.

The provision of music for services has been greatly enhanced with the recent installation of a refurbished pipe organ to replace the existing organ which was not fit for purpose.

The building, although large inside, is not easily accessible to all as there are steps leading into the body of the Church from both doors. We are currently working with our architect on solutions to improve assisted access, with a trial ramp and steps in place to get feedback from the public. Another priority is the conservation of the rood screen.

The large area at the back does, however, provide an excellent space when hosting concerts, large weddings or funerals and the weekly after-service refreshments that provide a much-appreciated opportunity for fellowship amongst the congregation.



The Vicarage

The vicarage at Widecombe is located a short walk downhill from the centre of the village. It is a peaceful location, yet with easy access to the church and the village amenities. As the last vicar found to his delight, it is also a short walk to The Rugglestone Inn, who are very welcoming, and which makes for an opportune touching-point with the community.

The house is situated within its own garden, that is well stocked with plants, and has an area of lawn next to the East Webburn River which flows along the western boundary of the property. Access to the property is via a single gate or a vehicular entrance across a cattle grid, with parking for multiple cars.



All rooms are generously sized, and the house enjoys some wonderful views. On the ground floor, there is an open plan dining/sitting room with wood burner, kitchen, study, a family bathroom, separate WC, and an access door to the integral garage. The house has two bedrooms downstairs. The master bedroom which overlooks the river has an en-suite.

Upstairs has two further bedrooms, a bathroom with shower and WC, and access to the loft. There are built-in bookshelves along the corridor.

PV (solar) panels have recently been installed on the roof and the heating system is being renewed.



Our Locality

St John the Baptist, Leusdon



We have a splendid Memorial Hall which celebrates its centenary in 2023. It is used regularly for local events and is hired to groups from outside the parish who are attracted by its spectacular location. In addition to regular Whist Drives and Coffee Mornings, it is the venue for the annual Moorland Merry-makers pantomime which has run for many years and attracts a full house for a week.

The spectacular garden at Spitchwick Manor is opened every year under the National Garden Scheme and attracts large numbers who donate generously to charity. Spitchwick Cricket Club play friendly matches at a beautiful cricket field close to the Manor. Nearby Poundsgate has a pub, the Tavistock Inn, which attracts locals as well as large numbers of visitors as it is on the main road between Ashburton, Princetown and Tavistock.

St Gabriel, Postbridge

Set in the heart of Dartmoor, with mostly Duchy of Cornwall owned farms and properties, Postbridge has an ancient, 13th century clapper bridge over the East Dart River which draws many visitors. The church, hall and shop are central to this community.

There are 107 people living in Postbridge and Bellever with 11 children and 3 people over 85. It is a very rural agricultural area with many people living here for generations in a traditional community. Being a fairly static community many people have known each other for a long time, with only a few exceptions who do not seek to mix.

There are two pubs, of which the Warren House Inn is the third highest in England, one hotel and one B&B establishment. Bellever has a unique row of ex-forestry worker cottages, a youth hostel and access to Bellever Forest which is a beautiful place for walking.

We hold two coffee mornings each month; one for the church and one is a mini market for hall funds. There are whist drives and a village pantomime which is rehearsed and performed in the winter, as well as a weekly games evening in the summer months.

The National Park Visitor Centre in Postbridge uses the latest technology to bring Dartmoor history to life in exhibitions and displays.



St Pancras, Widecombe

Widecombe-in-the-Moor is a picturesque village situated on Dartmoor and is home to a diverse community made up of both long-established families and those who have moved to the Moors from elsewhere.

Employment is focused mainly on agriculture and tourism as the beautiful locality attracts many thousands of visitors a year.

The current population of the Parish is in the region of 520. There has been a social housing development of 14 new houses built within the village in recent years. These buildings allow affordable accommodation for local people who would otherwise have had to leave the area.

The Widecombe-in-the-Moor Church House and Lands Charity owns four cottages in the nearby hamlet of Dunstone, which also offer affordable housing for local people. At the end of the year part of the money in the bank generated from the rents minus any expenditure is divided between St. Pancras church and Widecombe Educational Foundation. The trustees of both charities include PCC members.

Although the population is small a wide range of activities for all ages are organised including:

- The Moor itself is a major attraction for walking, cycling, wild swimming, canoeing and horse riding. In addition to the breathtaking scenery, it is rich in history, myths and legends with many interesting places to visit.
- The annual, historic Widecombe Fair takes place on the second Tuesday of every September and pulls together all the local communities to provide a splendid day out for the many thousands of people who come from far and wide to attend, as well as supplying local charities with an often much needed boost to their funds. It is through this fair that the village of Widecombe-in-the-Moor has become an all-year-round visitor attraction in itself.
- Widecombe has two social walking groups that cater for all levels of fitness.
- The Widecombe and District History Group meet monthly for talks about Dartmoor and the surrounding area. There are also outings to places of interest. They organise walks around the village with a local guide and maintain a local history archive.
- The Widecombe Social Group is open to all, meeting monthly from March to November. They have talks on a variety of topics by local people.
- The Widecombe Singers are a choir of locals who enjoy singing. They rehearse every week and often sing at weddings, Christmas services, the Widecombe Fair and with local folk musicians.
- The Widecombe and District Sports Group maintain a floodlit tennis court which can also be used for netball, hockey and five a side football.
- A weekly Artisan Craft Market with a variety of handmade items by Devon crafters.
- A monthly Village Market with an interesting range of produce from local producers and businesses.
- Regular whist drives in the local villages.
- Our local pubs put on regular quizzes, entertainment, specialist dining nights and euchre tournaments.
- A team of volunteers take part in the County Council's road warden scheme and, weather permitting, mend potholes that would not otherwise be fixed.
- The publication of the Moorland Parish Link, a free monthly magazine which provides news from a number of our local churches and details of community events.
- The publication of Rolling Along, an email community newsletter, with news of events in Widecombe.



Widecombe has its own Pre-School and Primary School. The Primary School, part of the Link Academy Trust, had 91 children from the surrounding area on the register as of May 2025. A recent Ofsted Inspection rated the school as 'Good', but its excellent reputation sees people from a wide area seeking to send their children to the school. South Dartmoor Community College in Ashburton provides education for pupils from 11 to 18.

Nearby is Shallowford Farm. A working hill farm that offers an educational opportunity to groups of young people, often from challenging city backgrounds, to experience rural life within a safe and nurturing home setting that promotes a Christian ethos. As a Mission Community, we enjoy a good working relationship with the farm, and they have hosted our Moor & Messy Church, and other services and activities for us.

An ancient granite Church House, owned by the National Trust, serves as the current village hall and provides a regular venue for Widecombe Pre-School. A community project is well underway to build a new hall across the village next to the tennis court, allowing the village to offer a more accessible and comfortable venue for the various activities it provides.

In the village, are two popular inns and a café that are open all year; The Old Inn, The Rugglestone Inn (which often features in lists of the best rural pubs), and the Café on the Green. There are also several shops and a kiosk that are aimed at accommodating the needs of the many visitors.

A mobile post office van comes from Ashburton every Monday morning, including Bank Holidays, enabling the local community to access many post office services and a book lending library.

Our Church Life and Congregations

St John the Baptist, Leusdon

We currently hold two services of Holy Communion each month, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, at 12:15pm. Supporting our worship, we have a regular flower provider and our volunteers arrange the flowers, clean the church, and provide refreshments after services. Joining in fellowship over refreshments after the service is a key part of Leusdon's church life, and we have an area set aside for this at the back of the church to help people feel welcome. There are a couple of children attending quite regularly, so creative ideas of how to keep them engaged in our traditional services would be welcome. The graveyard is maintained by Teignbridge District Council.

St Gabriel, Postbridge

We currently hold one service each month on the 3rd Sunday, alternating between Holy Communion and an Evening Worship at 6pm. A monthly coffee morning is run to raise funds for the church. It is mostly farmers and their wives and some retired people who help with both the church and village hall, whilst looking out for the vulnerable elderly in our community, as well as local children and families. With the nearby visitor centre and seasonal tourism, we would welcome inspiration for how to better engage with the people visiting and holidaying in the area.

St Pancras, Widcombe

The congregation of St Pancras fluctuates a little, rising slightly in the summer months, but with much larger numbers for festivals and seasonal services. As with many rural churches, our numbers are made up from the more senior members of our community, with several travelling a fair distance each week to worship within our church community.

St Pancras is often the favoured church in the area for holding local weddings and funerals due to its ample capacity, and often receives requests from couples well outside the vicinity due to the sheer beauty of the location.

We currently offer a service every Sunday. On the first Sunday of the month there is usually a Morning Praise service at 10.30am. On the other three Sundays in the month, there is a service of Holy Communion at 10.30am. If there is a fifth Sunday in a particular month, we join with the other churches in the Ashburton and Moorland Mission Community for a United Service, with churches within the team taking turns to host the service.

Additionally, during the year, the following seasonal services are held:-

- Plough Sunday where our ancient plough is pulled to the front of the church to be blessed
- Rogation Service with a walk around the village
- Pet Service where all animals are blessed including ponies!
- Thank-You Service
- Harvest Service with Bring & Share Supper
- All Souls Service where the names in the Book of Remembrance are read out
- Remembrance Service
- Christingle Service
- Crib Service
- Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards

We hold fundraising concerts in the church and, most years, a popular Christmas Tree Festival in December with all monies raised from the festival and Christmas services donated to a chosen local children's charity.

Links with the Primary School are maintained through the Vicar, who is asked to attend the school to help with the Religious Education curriculum at Easter and Christmas, and two members of the congregation who take the Living Word Library into the school each fortnight. The school hold their leavers and Christmas events in the church.

St Pancras currently has no choir, but the Widecombe Singers come and provide vocal support where needed at seasonal services and some of our congregation sing with a joint choir at United Services.

St Pancras enjoys real commitment from dedicated members of its own, and the wider community. Those who do not attend church regularly are encouraged to join in the church activities, whether it is providing post-service refreshments, welcoming visitors, flower arranging, bell ringing or helping with one-off projects such as the local Young Farmers who were mobilised to rebuild a section of the churchyard boundary wall.



Two members of the congregation organise a table top shop at the back of the church, bringing in a healthy income each year due to the number of visitors from around the world that St Pancras is lucky enough to receive. With outreach to visitors in mind, we have a rota of 'Welcomers' to be in church on several mornings and afternoons a week during the busy months, to welcome visitors and perhaps be on hand to provide a friendly, listening ear. We also have a Prayer Flag Tree where visitors are encouraged to help themselves to a cloth flag and take it back to their homes and communities to encourage the promotion of peace. To date over 2000 flags have gone to over 20 countries.

We are also lucky enough to have a dedicated rota of flower arrangers who regularly fill the church with flowers, plus a rota of refreshment providers for that most important post-service fellowship.

Although our community is spread wide, our communications are strong. There is a free monthly magazine, the Moorland Parish Link, with a current print run of 765 copies, and it is also available online. The magazine, funded by commercial advertising and donations, details all church services on the Moor along with other community events.

Widecombe is a very beautiful part of the country in which to live and work, and although small in number, our church community is friendly, positive and strong in faith, and anyone looking to come and join us will be assured of a warm welcome.

Our Church Finances and Attendance

St John the Baptist, Leusdon

Finance

Our 2025 financial report shows income from:

- Church collections £1,362
- Donations Box (Visitors) £340
- Planned Giving £690
- Parish Giving Scheme £3,490
- Tax returns £397
- Donations £30,090

Expenditure:

- Diocesan share £3,235
- Moorland Team expenses £830

Attendance

The population of the parish is only about 150, with an Electoral Roll of 19 and an average congregation currently of about 15. This can fluctuate with the seasons, but increases on special occasions, including our Christmas Carol Service which sees a full church with a local choir enjoying the excellent acoustic.

St Gabriel, Postbridge

Finance

- Our Diocesan Share is paid in full.
- Roughly 50% of our direct giving is through the Parish Giving Scheme.
- We have a restricted fabric fund that is held by the Diocese.
- Our income from monthly coffee mornings is approximately £50-£60.

Attendance

In 2025 the St Gabriel Electoral Roll included 8 parishioners. There are typically 6 regular worshipers in the congregation, but this can rise to between 15 and 35 on special occasion services such as Harvest, Carols, Pet Services, etc. Usually, we have one christening or a wedding each year, but in a small village this can vary, with two baptisms in this past year.

St Pancras, Widcombe

Finance

- We are a church that regards the payment of the parish share as a priority.
- We are a contributor to diocesan funds, paying £13,681 in 2025.
- We have paid our parish share in full in previous years and expect to in 2026.
- We have a mixed income of planned giving, collections, bequests, bookstall and donations from our many visitors.
- We have a couple of small restricted funds for the upkeep of the churchyard, otherwise all our funds are unrestricted.
- We are responsible for having, in addition to our accounts, the accounts of St Gabriel Postbridge, the Parish Link magazine and the Widcombe Bellringers examined annually.

Attendance

In 2025, the St. Pancras Electoral Roll included 25 parishioners, of whom 20 live in the parish. The latest participation return numbered 31, of which 29 attend services and 2 are unable to attend.

Excluding seasonal services and baptismal services, the average attendance at our main Sunday service in 2025 was 23. Of the seasonal services, the most popular ones, such as the Carol Service and Christingle, attract children and parents from the school.

Service	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	Service	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Plough Sunday	39	32	29	25	-	Thank You	31	44	115	31	-
Mothering	40	35	37	25	-	Harvest	28	35	45	42	35
Good Friday	13	-	-	12	7	All Souls	30	32	28	21	43
Easter Day	49	56	64	33	27	Remembrance	51	52	67	63	51
Rogation	21	41	25	22	22	Christingle	61	75	95	104	87
Songs of Praise	-	-	36	53	-	Carol	133	127	119	78	61
Pet	24	30	36	42	35	Crib	47	32	40	40	27
United Mission	65	120	-	78	-	Christmas Day	57	47	53	88	66

We also enable our community to celebrate and thank God for the milestones of the journey through life.

Life Event	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Baptism	-	1	3	1	3
Wedding	1	1	3	7	4
Marriage Blessing	-	1	2	1	-
Funeral	7	1	6	3	2
Burial of Ashes	-	-	3	-	1
Memorial Service	1	2	-	-	-



Ashburton and Moorland Mission Community

Mission Communities have been forming in Exeter Diocese since 2004 (see Diocesan website for details). The Ashburton and Moorland Mission Community currently consists of twelve congregations (9 Anglican and 3 Methodist):

St Andrew's, Ashburton; Ashburton Methodists in Community; St Peter's, Buckland-in-the-Moor; St Mary the Virgin, Bickington; Dunstone Methodist Chapel; St Mary the Virgin, Holne; St Raphael's, Huccaby; St Michael's, Ilsington; St John the Baptist, Leusdon; St Gabriel's, Postbridge; Poundgate Methodist Chapel; St Pancras, Widecombe-in-the-Moor. Each church has a distinctive character which is supported by their local communities.

Together we make up approximately 200+ worshipping participants. A diverse group of churches and chapels, we wish to honour and celebrate the distinctiveness of each local church. Recognising we are 'One in Christ', we also understand we have the power to transform situations when working together by God's grace, in His mission and service.

Over the last seven years the Anglican and Methodist Churches have been working more closely together in children, families and young people's ministry and worship, and across the Mission Community you will now find an All-Age offering available every Sunday through our working together. This exploration of shared ministry together in a Mission Community was cemented by the signing of a Covenant Partnership between the Anglican and Methodist churches in October 2023.



The Mission Community has the following paid personnel:

Administrator: Emma Noppers-Moore

Children, Youth and Families Worker: Angie Blanche

Team Vicar (House-for-Duty): Rev'd Canon John Bennett

Team Rector: Rev'd Phill Parker

Phill Parker was previously Assistant Curate of the South Tamar Mission Community in West Devon, looking after six rural churches there, before crossing the Moor to the Ashburton & Moorland Mission Community. Having been a livestock market chaplain in Tavistock previously, he now offers chaplaincy to the Ashburton Sheep Sales, which enhances our connection with the moorland farming communities. A ministry of 'being present', as found in chaplaincy, is a strong theme for Phill's outlook on ministry, and he lives that out with motorsport chaplaincy and mission and outreach with Christians in Motorsport in his spare time (if a Team Rector has such time!).

Website: www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk

Further Information

Further information on the area, groups, businesses and events mentioned in the profile can be found at:

Ashburton & Moorland Mission Community Ashburton	https://ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/
Bellever Forest	https://www.visitdevon.co.uk/south-west-devon/south-devon/towns-and-villages-in-south-devon/ashburton/
Bickington	https://www.forestryengland.uk/bellever-forest
Bovey Tracey	http://www.bickingtonpc.org/
Buckland in the Moor	https://www.visitdevon.co.uk/listing/bovey-tracey/
Dartmoor Forest Parish Council	https://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/places/buckland-in-the-moor-p441493
Dartmoor National Park	https://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk/index.php
Holne	https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/
Huccaby	https://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/places/holne-p436273
Ilsington	https://dartmoorexplorations.co.uk/hexworthy-or-huccaby-bridge-and-environs/
Leusdon	https://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/places/ilsington-p436333
Leusdon Memorial Hall	https://devonchurchland.co.uk/description/leusdon-church-of-st-john-the-baptist-description/
Moorland Parish Link	https://www.facebook.com/Leusdonhall/
Postbridge	https://www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/parish_link/index.php
Postbridge Village Hall	https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/enjoy-dartmoor/places/postbridge
Shallowford Farm	https://postbridgevillagehall.weebly.com/
South Dartmoor College	https://www.shallowfordfarm.co.uk/
The Café on the Green	https://www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk/
The Old Inn	https://www.thecafeonthegreen.co.uk/
The Rugglestone Inn	https://www.oldinnwidcombe.co.uk/
Widcombe-in-the-Moor	http://www.rugglestoneinn.co.uk/
Widcombe Craft Market	https://www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/
Widcombe Digital Archive	https://www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/craft/index.php
Widcombe Fair	https://www.widcombearchive.org.uk/
Widcombe Parish Council	https://www.widcombefair.com/
Widcombe Pre-School	https://www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/parish/parish_council.php
Widcombe Primary School	https://www.widcombepreschool.org.uk/
Widcombe Sports Group	https://www.widcombe.thelink.academy/web
Widcombe Village Market	https://www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/sports_group/
	https://www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/market/index.php