



DIOCESE  
OF EXETER  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
IN DEVON



**TEAM VICAR**  
**(House for Duty)**  
Dawlish Coast Team Ministry  
(with responsibility for  
Starcross)





# THANK YOU

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**Thank you for your interest in becoming the new Team Vicar, we hope this Profile gives you an insight into the role**

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# 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 exciting opportunity to minister in one of our vibrant coastal communities. There is a hope that the churches in this Mission Community will work together as a Team, but keeping their distinct variety of traditions and worship styles. 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 Team Vicar. You will be supported by an experienced Team Rector, 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, you will help this parish flourish.

The Dawlish Coast Team Ministry is a multi-parish benefice, covering the town of Dawlish and the surrounding area and villages. The new Team Vicar will need to work closely with the Team Rector to build and shape a shared vision for ministry across the area. The benefice is part of the Kenn Deanery, where the Rural Dean is the Revd Preb Ruth Frampton.

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.



### The Archdeacon of Exeter

The Venerable Andrew Beane

07898932654

[ade@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:ade@exeter.anglican.org)



### The Bishop of Crediton

The Rt. Rev'd Moira Astin

[bishop.of.crediton@exeter.anglican.org](mailto: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](mailto:lawder.smith@exeter.anglican.org)

### Overview

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



### Served By

- 3 Bishops
- 4 Archdeaconries
- 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



## Our Five Missional Priorities





# WELCOME

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## **Thank you for your interest in becoming our new Team Vicar**

The Parish of Starcross lies between Exeter and Dawlish, surrounded by arable land on three sides and the River Exe on the fourth. Much of the surrounding land is owned by the Earl of Devon. Over the past 35 years, the village has grown significantly, largely due to the development of housing on the former hospital site. Today, there are approximately 835 properties and a population of around 1,700, comprising a mix of retired residents and families with working parents. The village nestles at the mouth of the Exe Estuary beneath the Haldon Hills and Forest, with coast and moorland both within easy reach.

Starcross is a commuter village for Exeter and beyond, with its own railway station and regular bus services. Although situated in a popular tourist area, the village itself is relatively unaffected by visitor traffic, aside from the well-used ferry link to Exmouth. The Exe Estuary Cycle Route, running from Exmouth to Dawlish and beyond, passes through the village, bringing welcome activity to the area, including a popular coffee cabin and seating nearby.

Village facilities include a church, primary school, general store, surgery, pharmacy, two public houses, the British Legion, and the Starcross Fishing and Cruising Club. There is also an active bowling club, a local history group, and a thriving twinning association. A free monthly village newsletter is delivered to every household.

Starcross Railway Station



Starcross Yacht Club



# DAWLISH COAST TEAM MINISTRY

**Cont...**

There are many opportunities for sport and leisure, including bowls, football, fishing, sailing, and walking. The village sports pavilion and adjoining playing fields are well used for community events and activities. In particular, Starcross Dons Football Club provides coaching and matches for children across a wide age range. The village primary school includes a preschool, from which holiday clubs are run. Secondary-age children attend schools in Dawlish, Teignmouth, and Exeter. South Devon College, Exeter College, and the University of Exeter are all within easy reach.

# THE CHURCH AND THE TEAM

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St Paul's Church is part of the Dawlish Coast Team Ministry, led by our Team Rector Revd Linda Cronin. It stretches along the coast from Starcross to Holcombe.

The Team includes:

- St Gregory's Church, Dawlish
- St Mary's Church, Cofton
- St George's Church, Holcombe

We seek to work collaboratively across the benefice and hold regular joint services on the fifth Sunday of the month. While each church retains its own identity, we are united in our shared purpose: to Pray, Grow, and Serve.

The Dawlish Coast Team Ministry includes a number of retired clergy (PTOs) and Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs). The Team Vicar would join this supportive ministry team, with a particular focus on St Paul's, Starcross. The benefice is also supported by a part-time Benefice Administrator.

The appointed Team Vicar will live within the village and provide pastoral leadership, encouragement, and spiritual guidance to both church members and the wider community. They will lead worship, encourage lay participation, and work closely with the Churchwardens and others. It is important that the appointed person is comfortable being actively involved in village life, both inside and outside the church.



# THE VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY

## ***St Paul's plays a particularly important role in the community***

There is no village hall in Starcross, and community organisations each use their own premises, the sports pavilion, or the church. As the largest indoor gathering space in the village, St Paul's plays a particularly important role in community life.

St Paul's is the only place of worship in the village and is situated at its centre. The church building is unusual in design, with a wide, open-span interior and no pillars to obstruct the view, creating a welcoming and flexible worship space.

The rear of the church has been adapted into a large room spanning the full width of the building. This space is used for hospitality, meetings, and many of the social events held throughout the year. There is also a toilet and small kitchen adjacent to this room. Upstairs, a balcony and two smaller rooms are used for storage and administration.

We host monthly community sales from February to July, and again in September and October, with a larger pre-Christmas "Winter Warmer" sale in November. These events provide opportunities for both the church and local residents to sell goods, enjoy refreshments, and spend time together. They create valuable opportunities for the Team Vicar and church members to build relationships and engage in deeper conversations in a relaxed setting.

St Paul's, Starcross



Remembrance Service



Christingle at Starcross



# OUR WORSHIP

## Welcoming, accessible and flexible worship

We are a welcoming and accessible church that values both tradition and flexibility in worship. Our style is broadly evangelical, while respecting a range of church traditions and encouraging lay participation.

A dedicated music leader directs our music group and plays the organ, supporting a variety of worship styles that reflect the needs of our congregation.

Our regular pattern of worship is:

- 1st Sunday - 9.30 am - Morning Worship
- 2nd Sunday - 9.30 am - Informal Holy Communion
- 3rd Sunday - 9.30 am - Morning Worship
- 4th Sunday - 9.30 am - Traditional Holy Communion
- 5th Sunday - 10.30 am - Joint Benefice Service (rotating between churches)

Our average Sunday congregation in 2025 was approximately 30. Most members are older in age, though we are encouraged by the presence of some younger working families.

The PCC meets four to six times each year, supported by several working groups. Our Mission Action Plan aligns with the wider aims of the Diocese of Exeter.



# CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

**Growing faith is the heart of who we are in Starcross**

We have a well-established Messy Church, which has been running for around 15 years, with a short break during the Covid pandemic. Attendance varies, but we typically welcome around 40 adults and children each month.

We also enjoy strong links with the village primary school. We lead monthly school assemblies, and at key festival times the whole school comes to church for worship. Members of the congregation assist with these assemblies and help strengthen our connection with local families.





OStarcross Community  
lunches



East Window



Outdoor Space

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

### **We hope St Paul's can become an even more valuable resource for the community**

The PCC and congregation are actively exploring plans to reorder the church building. Our aim is to make the church more accessible and flexible for wider community use, while preserving its primary purpose as a place of Christian worship.

The primary school, situated next door, already uses the church for Christmas and Harvest celebrations. We also host concerts and serve as a venue for the local Shanty Festival. Through reordering, we hope to welcome even more community groups and events into the building. Architectural plans have been prepared, and faculty approval has already been granted. Priorities include creating a more flexible open space and improving toilet facilities, including disabled access.

As the largest gathering space in the village, we hope St Paul's can become an even more valuable resource for the whole community.

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

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## **We are seeking a leader rooted in Starcross by part of the wider Team Ministry**

The parish of Starcross has benefitted greatly from having a priest who is visible in village life, takes time to get to know people beyond the church, and demonstrates God's love through presence and service.

We recognise that ministry will continue to evolve, but we believe strongly in the importance of maintaining a visible and approachable Christian presence in our community.

We are seeking a leader who will:

- Be warmly present and engaged in village life
- Lead worship with faithfulness, flexibility, and encouragement
- Support and nurture lay ministry
- Build on our strong community relationships
- Encourage spiritual growth within the congregation
- Listen carefully to the needs of both church and community
- Help us continue to learn, grow, and serve together

We aim to be a welcoming and accessible church, showing God's love through service in many different ways. The church family at St Paul's is warm, supportive, and committed to the future.

We expect this role to be three Sundays a month in Starcross and one across the wider team.



Starcorss Vicarage (front)



Starcross Vicarage (rear)



Starcross and the Brunel Pumping Station from the Exe

# HOUSING

## ***Modern four-bedroom house with separate office***

The house is situated at the North end of the village and abuts green fields. The house is modern and sits in a small cul-de-sac with 2 additional houses. The house has a manageable-sized garden, which is mainly grass, and a garage. It consists of 4 bedrooms, an open lounge, a sitting room with a good-sized kitchen/breakfast room, and a downstairs cloakroom. There is a separate office on the ground floor.



### **Sarah Owen**

Property Services Administrator

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The Property Services Team is responsible for maintaining and improving clergy housing so if you have any issues to do with your clergy home please do liaise with us. Your surveyor and contact details are set out in the Property Information Document that the Archdeacon's PA will have provided you with as part of the appointment process.

The policy document for clergy housing is available on the diocesan website and this includes what to do in the event of an emergency / out of hours.

Guidance on church buildings, housing and PCC property can be accessed via the diocesan website: **[Buildings and land \(clergy housing and glebe\)](#)**

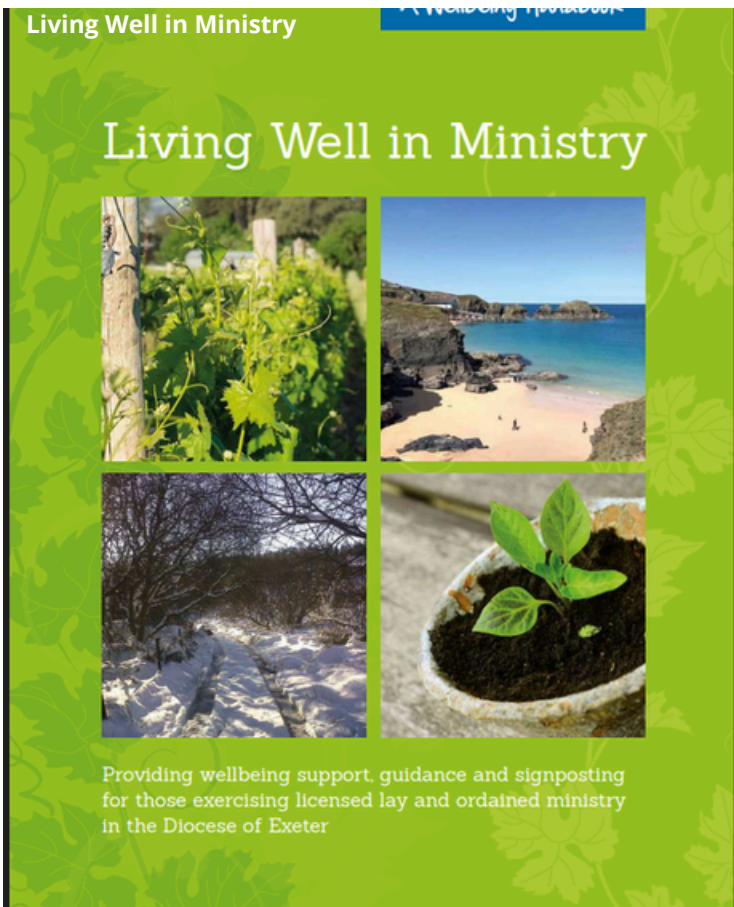
The Diocesan Housing Policy in relation to the general standards and responsibilities for the house is available at: **[HOUSING GUIDANCE AND POLICIES](#)**



Guidance on **[church buildings, housing and PCC property](#)**.



Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance - **[Housing Guidance and Policies](#)**.



# WELBEING AND SUPPORT

## Wellbeing Support

The Diocese of Exeter is committed to promoting a culture of wellbeing across all areas of ministry and diocesan work. We recognise that supporting your emotional, spiritual and practical wellbeing is key to sustaining a healthy and flourishing life in ministry and in the workplace.

Find out more about our Wellbeing Support and Counselling Service at <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/wellbeing/wellbeing-for-clergy-and-staff/>



Our Wellbeing Support also includes:

- Supporting Neurodiversity in Ministry
- Spiritual Direction
- Coaching
- Family Friendly Policies
- Clergy Careers and Transition Service

We are here to help and support you during the application process and in your new ministry.



### The Archdeacon of Exeter

The Venerable Andrew Beane

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**May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.**

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