

# **The Benefice Profile**

### Crick, Lilbourne and Yelvertoft in the County of Northamptonshire







†D The Diocese of ☐ ★ Peterborough

### Contents

Welcome	3
Benefice Profile Synopsis	3
About the Benefice	5
<ul> <li>Location and History</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Service Pattern in the Benefice</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>A Spirit of Mission and Cooperation</li> </ul>	
About Our Parishes	10
<ul> <li>St Margaret's Crick</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>All Saints' Lilbourne</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>All Saints' Yelvertoft</li> </ul>	
Challenges and Opportunities as a Benefice	19
<ul> <li>Families and Children</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Creating Space for Peace and Connection with God</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Development Opportunities</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Understanding Villagers' Needs</li> </ul>	
► Finance	
The Rector We Want	21
<ul> <li>Qualities, Values and Ministry</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>How we will support you</li> </ul>	
What Next?	23

### Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the vacancy for Rector of the benefice of Crick, Yelvertoft with Clay Coton, and Lilbourne. We welcome you.

### **Benefice Profile Synopsis**

### Who we are

The parishes of Lilbourne and Yelvertoft were joined in the 1950s, and some thirty years later, in 1984, were combined with Crick to form a threeparish benefice. (There are four villages in the name of the benefice, but the church in Clay Coton closed many years ago.) The villages of Yelvertoft and Lilbourne retain their rural character and their population sizes are stable. In contrast, Crick's rural identity is more diffuse as it has tripled in size since the 1990s through housing development.



The Rectory is in Crick. Address: Main Road, Crick NN6 7TU. It's a four-bedroomed detached house, set back from the road. It has a large garden laid mainly to lawn, a single garage and parking for four cars. The village centre - Co-op, pubs, Post Office, primary school, medical practice – is within easy walking distance. There's a regular bus service to Rugby and Northampton from outside the Co-op.

### What we do

We offer Sunday worship in each church every week and our buildings are open daily. We follow a range of liturgies that reflect the needs of our congregations. In 2022 we introduced two Fresh Expressions of worship (Crick and Lilbourne) at a different time/day to our traditional service pattern. Music in our worship is important to us. We are blessed to have organists who lead our traditional Sunday services, regular choirs in Crick and Yelvertoft, an occasional choir in Lilbourne, and a worship group in Crick.

Additionally, we offer a weekly term-time after-school club (Yelvertoft), a pre-school group (Crick) and fortnightly or monthly home groups/prayer meetings in all three villages.

### How we go about doing it

We work well together across our benefice. Each church has two churchwardens and an assistant churchwarden and the relationships between them are excellent. This has built a strong 'can do' spirit. We help each other and talk regularly.

We enjoy close relationships with our two primary schools, (neither of them 'C. of E.') We achieve this through running school assemblies, school governorship, hosting school services for leavers, Christingle services, and school visits to our churches to support the RE curriculum.

All three churches run fundraising events that are well supported by their communities.

The benefice cannot offer paid administrative support but churchwardens and members of the PCCs work hard to get the jobs done. We do have a photocopier, and an excellent lap-top was purchased recently for the clergy's use.

### What we want from our Rector

We have consulted with our congregations about what we want from our Rector and you will find more information about this in the relevant section of the profile. However, the consensus is that we would like our Rector whether male or female - to be somebody who won't tell us what to do but rather somebody who wants to walk alongside us, as a fellow disciple, to develop their gifts and ours.

### How we will support our Rector

We understand that the role of Rector is challenging with many expectations placed on it. Whether you are looking for your first full-time post or have more experience, we will support you through prayer, through sound organisational skills and with a desire to welcome you so that you can settle quickly.

### **About the Benefice**

### **Location and History:**

We're in Northamptonshire close to its borders with both Leicestershire and Warwickshire, and thus one of the furthest outposts of the Diocese of Peterborough.



The villages are set in the valley at the edge of the beautiful rolling Northamptonshire uplands. It's an area with a rich history and the good fortune of being well positioned near to Watford Gap, a natural passing place through a range of hills, which engineers, from Roman times onwards, have capitalised on to build roads (M1 and A5), railways (West Coast Main Line) and canals (Grand Union). Under the Vikings, the villages would have been under Dane-Law, and many still bear their names, like Yelvertoft. Lilbourne PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE PAGE 5 once occupied an important strategic position at the crossing point of the River Avon, where the Normans built a motte and bailey castle.

The development of the area continues apace: the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT) became operational in 1997 and is still growing, while across the A5 the new town of Houlton (Diocese of Coventry), utilising the site of the former Rugby Radio Station, will accommodate 6,000 houses. It has its own schools and shops.

### Transport

The M1, M6, A5 and A14 are close by. Peterborough can be reached in 75 minutes. The West Coast mainline can be accessed from Rugby.

### Schools

Crick and Yelvertoft each have primary schools that feed into the Guilsborough Academy, but parents can also choose from a range of other state and independent secondary schools nearby in Warwickshire or Northamptonshire.

### **Health Care**

Crick Medical Practice provides primary healthcare to Crick, Lilbourne and Yelvertoft and the surrounding area, although many at Yelvertoft also use Guilsborough Medical Centre. The nearest small hospital is St Cross in Rugby and this is part of the Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust. The main hospital, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, is 19 miles away, just off the M6, junction 2. There is a large General Hospital in Northampton which is 15 miles away and a smaller General Hospital in Kettering which is a similar distance along the A14.

Day	Crick	Lilbourne	Yelvertoft
1st Sunday	9.45am Informal Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise	11.15am Holy Communion
2nd Saturday		3pm Saturday Afternoons in Lilbourne (S.A.I.L) Lilbourne Village Hall	
2nd Sunday	9.45am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Praise (lay led)	11.15am Songs of Praise
3rd Sunday	3pm SHINE!	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer
4th Sunday	9.45am Songs of Praise	6pm Evensong	11.15am All Age Service
5th Sunday	11.15am Benefice Holy Communion and lunch. Hosted by rotation in each church		
Wednesdays	10.30am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer		

### Service Pattern in the Benefice

### **Occasional Offices 2024**

	Crick	Lilbourne	Yelvertoft
Baptisms	4	0	3
Weddings	2	0	3
Funerals	8	4	7

As the main table shows, we offer a Sunday service in each of our churches every week. This has been the case for many years and is greatly valued. One of the realities of life in a village setting, in contrast to urban parishes, is that its churches are the principal places of worship. Finding a good balance that caters for a wide and possibly competing range of needs and preferences can be challenging.

Our current service pattern has been in place since October 2022 and, in the main, is working well. It was developed from our attendance at a Leading Your Church into Growth conference in March 2022. Before any changes were made, we wanted to give prayer-for-mission the top priority and 'Prayer and Puddings' evenings were established in each parish, meeting monthly. Two of these have now become home groups for Bible study and prayer.

The informal Morning Praise service in Crick is evangelical in style and its flexible liturgy is allowing more freedom in our worship through the music, prayers and preaching. In contrast, a service of BCP Evensong at Lilbourne once a month is greatly appreciated.

We worship together as a Benefice at our 5th Sunday Holy Communions, followed by lunch, and on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day and All Souls. The mid-week Holy Communion (BCP) in Crick is also a Benefice service and is often attended by members from all three churches.



In our mission to families and children, we created new monthly Fresh Expressions of worship with the Shine service in Crick and S.A.I.L (Saturday Afternoons in Lilbourne). Both of these services were offered on a different day and/or time in response to feedback from our families. We have continued to offer a monthly All Age service (Yelvertoft). Additionally, Little Saints (Crick), which meets on Mondays in term time, is a well-supported

pre-school group, and there is an equally popular weekly after-school club called Shepherd's Delight held at Yelvertoft Primary School.

#### Benefice - a spirit of mission and cooperation

Our previous Rector gave a lot of attention to the quality of relationships, both inter- and intra-parish, and to encouraging individuals with particular gifts. A marked example of this has been the working relationship between our Benefice churchwardens which has improved greatly over the past four years. They have met together with the clergy over a meal every eight weeks, with no formal agenda, and this has resulted in much collaboration, sharing of resources and excellent mutual support.

We also now have a group of three lay members who have received local training to preach at any of the churches in the Benefice.

In January 2025, the churchwardens convened a Benefice meeting for any member of the congregations who wanted to attend to contribute their thoughts on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the Benefice and what is wanted from our new Rector. On the coldest day this winter, 37 people came together one Saturday morning and spent an enjoyable and productive two hours together.

In June 2023, we held our first Benefice pilgrimage – now an annual event. We walk an 11mile route that connects the three churches and we worship together along the way.



A Start course ran in January 2025 and was

attended by twelve people. It was very well received and there is definitely scope to offer more of these, perhaps targeted at different groups: parents, young adults, and teenagers.

Underpinning everything we do is creating a safe place for all who come into our buildings. Each parish has a Safeguarding Officer and the PCCs have a standing agenda item on this topic at every meeting. DBS checks and training are up to date. Training certificates are displayed prominently and safeguarding information is displayed on our pre-service notices slide presentations in Crick and Yelvertoft, and on the notice board in Lilbourne.

### **About Our Parishes**

	About Our	ransnes		
	Crick	Lilbourne	Yelvertoft	
Approx size of the village	2,200, in 900 houses	300, in 170 houses	800, in 350 houses	
Socio-economic category	В	В	В	
Housing	Predominantly owner-occupied with some rental and social housing and some residential moorings at the marinas in Crick and Yelvertoft. The new housing in Crick has attracted many young families.			
School:	Primary: 193 pupils	0	Primary: 91 pupils	
Shops:	Co-op and Post Office	0	Delicatessen	
Pubs:	3	1	1	
Hotels:	2	0	0	
Cafes:	2	0	0	
Other amenities/local features	<ul> <li>Canal &amp; marina</li> <li>Scouts and Guides</li> <li>Ex-servicemen's club</li> <li>Village hall</li> <li>Crick Old School</li> <li>Community Sports Centre</li> <li>Playing field</li> <li>Garden centre</li> <li>Hairdresser</li> <li>Funeral directors</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Village minibus</li> <li>Village hall &amp; play area</li> <li>Garage</li> <li>Nature reserve</li> <li>Castle mounds</li> <li>Fortnightly coffee morning run by the village hall</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Canal &amp; marina</li> <li>Village hall &amp; pocket park</li> <li>Last Saturday Café run by the village hall</li> <li>Reading Room</li> <li>Bowls, cricket, Tai Chi</li> </ul>	
Churchwardens	Each church has two churchwardens and an assistant churchwarden			
Electoral Roll	54	21	37	
ASA	20	13.3	20	
2024 Parish Share paid in full?	Yes	Yes	Yes	
% allocation of Parish Share total	50%	13%	37%	
Clergy expenses paid in full	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Parish Giving Scheme	Yes	Yes	Yes	
2024 accounts	From the Arch Deacon on request			
Church grading status	1	1	1	
Latest Quinquennial	2022	2022	2023	
Church seating	250	100	200	
Friends' groups supporting the fabric	Yes	Yes	No	
Bells	8	5	6	
Other Christian groups in the village	United Reformed Church	0	Independent Chapel Roman Catholic Church	
Latest Quinquennial Church seating Friends' groups supporting the fabric Bells Other Christian groups in the	2022 250 Yes 8	2022 100 Yes 5	2023 200 No 6 Independent Chapel	

### **St Margaret's, Crick**

St Margaret of Antioch Church is set in the centre of the village and is open every day. Its spire can be seen from the M1 and the surrounding countryside and lends its name to the latest new housing area - St Margaret's View – on the western edge of the village.



We have two churchwardens and an assistant churchwarden. Our PCC has ten members and meets six times a year. We are

blessed with a motivated and capable core group of people committed to discipleship who help to keep the church running as smoothly as possible. Refreshments are provided at all services; indeed, food is something of signature activity at fundraising events too.



We have developed our outward-facing communications and keep them up to date and welcoming. During the pandemic we set up a regular newsletter - St Margaret's Voices – that reaches over 100 people by email, and home delivery. We built an attractive website and set up a Facebook page that now has over 200 members.

Our Average Sunday Attendances (ASA) in 2024 declined to 20 from 28 in the previous year. The informal Morning Praise and Shine services represented a significant shift away from our traditional patterns of worship. We feel they demonstrate our openness to change to encourage missional growth even if the pathway to achieving this it isn't straightforward.

The ASA calculation however is incomplete as a measure because it doesn't differentiate between the range of services offered each month. We typically have 30 people attending Holy Communion and Songs of Praise and 20/25 at our informal Morning Praise. Our Shine service is treated as a Fresh

#### 29 APRIL 2025



Expression of worship and attendances at this service have averaged 17 adults and 5 children in 2024.

There is a strong heart for worship at all our services and we pay a lot of attention to the welcome we give to visitors and regulars alike. At specific times of the year, the church is full to capacity, for example, on Remembrance Sunday and at the two

services held in church for Crick Primary School (the Leavers' service in July and their Christingle service in December). Our Christmas services, especially the traditional carol service and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve are very popular.

Our Grade 1-listed building is much admired and a review of it was carried out by Simon Jenkins as part of his 'Great English Churches' project (referenced at the end of the Profile). There has been a place of worship on the site for 1,300 years.



From the quinquennial inspection report of December 2022, the most urgent issues relating to the chancel ceiling have been addressed. The remaining priorities relating to wear and tear to stonework are

being progressed. Fundraising for the fabric is supported by an enthusiastic charitable group 'Friends of St Margaret's'.

St Margaret's is ideally suited to the hosting of concerts, children's activity days and community meetings. We do some of this already but there is scope to make greater use of the building for these purposes.

St Margaret's doesn't have a church hall but it has the use of The Crick Old School located directly opposite the main gate. This offers toilets and a meeting space. The Rector and churchwardens are ex-officio trustees of the charity that manages the building; [these three role-holders are also ex-officio trustees on two other small charities in the village]. As a village, Crick is the largest of the three in the Benefice. It is a lively place to live with a strong community spirit. Each year, the Crick Scarecrow Festival is a popular community event raising money for local and national charities. Crick Boat Show is held annually at the Marina attracting visitors from far and wide.



The relationship with the Primary school is strong with weekly assemblies led by clergy or a lay team and regular visits to the church by different year groups as part of their RE curriculum. Our previous rector and curate were on the governing body.

The Scouting and Guiding groups in the village are thriving and the relationships between the church and their leaders are excellent. The groups attend the annual Service of Remembrance and have attended services at other times.

Our links with the United Reformed Church are good. Their small congregation appreciates its links with St Margaret's and three members of our congregation, and our clergy, lead Sunday services for them, periodically.

### All Saints', Lilbourne

All Saints' Lilbourne is a small but vigorous Church, serving the smallest of the three villages of the benefice. It is open every day, with free basic refreshments available; we believe that this is vitally important, so that the community is encouraged to see it as their church despite its position almost half a mile from the residential area of the village. Comments show that this



accessibility is appreciated by villagers and by visitors from elsewhere (some of whom, having noticed the church and the castle mounds from the M1, 'had to come and find it') and many mention the special atmosphere in the building. We know a lot about its history, and this information is available inside.



Usual attendance at weekly services is 10 -15, with many more attending 'special' services. We try to meet differing needs with very different types of service through the month. Our two Morning Praise services were designed to be short and modern; the second, taking place the day after Saturday's SAIL session, is lay led and informal – we sit in a loose circle

with a 'cuppa, there are no hymns, and instead of a sermon we discuss the reading. It is much enjoyed, and when Revd Graeme sat in on one we think he was impressed. As part of the changes made in 2022, we made the monthly Holy Communion service Order One, while the 4th-Sunday Evensong is BCP. All services offer refreshments. SAIL (Saturday Afternoon In Lilbourne) is a monthly session aimed at young children and their families, held in the village hall. The children enjoy craft and construction activities, a Bible Story, song and prayer, and refreshments.

The church seats about 100. At present, use of the building other than for services is limited by lack of facilities; we have plans for a WC, servery, and



a larger open area for socialising. We urgently need to renew the heating, however, and want to move toward carbon-neutral. We have recently created a Friends group, to gain the necessary charitable status for accessing grants.

We hold several fundraising events each year; all are a form of outreach. We have a very good reputation for catering!

Lilbourne's church is the oldest building in the area. It

is in reasonably good order; a Quinquennial Inspection at the end of 2023 highlighted a need for some repointing, which has not yet been addressed. A commercial security system protects the roof. There are five bells, restored in 2012, and they ring for Evensong and for special services. Two villagers – one an 11-year-old girl – are currently learning to ring.

The churchyard, which is open, achieved a Gold Award for nature conservation (Wildlife BCN) in 2024. We aim for a balance between managed semi-wild and tended. It has been professionally surveyed, and we have the positions of all known graves numbered, with a full list of all legible inscriptions.

There are eight members of the PCC, including the churchwardens, supported by a wider group that helps on the rota for special occasions or with church music, the bells, and the churchyard. The PCC meets on alternate months in the home of one of our members,



and we enjoy a light buffet while dealing with business. We're a friendly team.

A carefully-planned Stewardship Campaign in 2023 met with some success though not as much as we had hoped. Our aim is to continue to engage with the village community and beyond, and to find ways to translate the evident goodwill that exists into Christian discipleship – to help people see that 'church' is so much more than just an old building down the lane, belonging to a past time, and to want to share in its life and its worship. We are also very conscious of the need to preserve our lovely, ancient church for future generations, retaining the ambience of 1000 years of continuous history and worship while - as the community always has adapting the building to fulfil the needs of the time.

'The days of old have dowered us with gifts beyond all praise; Our Father, make us faithful to serve the coming days' GW Briggs

### All Saints', Yelvertoft

At All Saints we have a small but faithful congregation and an active, committed PCC. Our congregation has not recovered fully following the pandemic, although we enjoy good support from our friends and neighbours in Yelvertoft.



All Saints' is one of three churches in Yelvertoft, serving alongside the Roman Catholic Church and Independent Chapel, sharing some

combined services with the latter. The parish includes two hamlets, Clay Coton and Elkington. The redundant church in Clay Coton is now a private dwelling.



Our Grade 1-listed church dates back to the 12th century, with 13th - 15th century additions, and is located at the eastern edge of the village. It has a meeting room with kitchen facilities and a toilet. It is generally in good repair but requires redecoration.

Choral music is important to us and our four-part choir

sings for all services apart from the All Age Service. Our interactive All Age services are enhanced by the imaginative use of our audio-visual system and interactive intergenerational talks. Each service is followed by a very valuable time of fellowship with refreshments.

We have an exceptional team of bell ringers and is affiliated to the Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

A small but faithful group of volunteers enjoy worshiping and exploring faith with the children and families at our All Age services. We have no specific outreach to secondary school aged children but there is a Christian youth group in the village led by Yelvertoft Independent Chapel that many of our primary school leavers go on to attend.



Our Christmas services and fundraising events are well supported by our local community.

The PCC has ten members, including two churchwardens, an assistant church warden, treasurer and secretary; it meets every six to eight weeks.

Members of the PCC raise funds through events like

the village fete, coffee mornings and fashion shows. The PCC also organises church and grave yard maintenance, church flowers, music, bells, refreshments and maintains the church website and communications.

Our relationship with Yelvertoft Primary School is good. The head teacher is very welcoming to church members and our clergy have taken weekly Bible-based assemblies shared in rotation with members of Yelvertoft Independent Chapel.



To strengthen links with the school, each month church members take in baked gifts to bless the school staff and to let them know they are being prayed for. One church member, who lives in Crick, is a parent governor. Our PCC sponsors a children's worker to run Shepherd's Delight.

Yelvertoft is a friendly village, with many social groups. The strong farming community lives happily alongside residents who are retired, working locally, or commuting via the good road and rail links.

The village has many amenities, with a primary school, village hall and reading room (educational charity, which are widely used for clubs, meetings, recreation and foodbank collections. We also have a lively pub and a deli/butcher's shop.



# Our challenges and opportunities as a Benefice

In presenting this 'shop window' of our benefice our natural instinct is to highlight all that is going well; indeed, we can see how God has been working in the lives of many people and is continuing to do so. However, building God's kingdom isn't plain sailing and there is much more to be done to develop our gifts of the Spirit, as well as proclaiming the Gospel and persuading others to follow Jesus.

### Families and children

Top of the list of priorities is our engagement with families and children. In line with wider societal trends, attendance by families and children is variable. Despite our best efforts and the excellent relationships with the schools and uniformed youth groups, encouraging regular attendance of young people is a challenge. The initial interest in Shine, which has now been running for 2 ½ years, was good but it appears to have run out of steam and needs fresh impetus. Yelvertoft has a similar experience at its All-Age service. In contrast, the Saturday Afternoons in Lilbourne (SAIL) are usually fairly well attended.

We are concerned about an absence of any provision for teenagers and, to be honest, so far, we have struggled to resource this.

Of equal importance is the connection with our young parents. As our comments illustrate, we have been proactive in our work with children but they don't get to church without an adult bringing them. Finding ways of connecting with parents, possibly without their children, is a priority.

### Creating space for peace and connection with God

In a multi-parish benefice, even one that has relatively few churches in the group, creating enough time for our clergy to meet parishioners and travel to the next service puts pressure on busy schedules. This results in the 'dashing clergy' comment which came from our Benefice meeting in January. Our very committed volunteers work extremely hard and do so with grace and skill. There is a constant risk, however, of our becoming overburdened and/or not finding time and space for peace and connection with God.

### More opportunities for development

There is a need to develop our discipleship through more home and prayer groups and open programmes like Start, alongside our weekly pattern of services.

# Understanding and empathising with villagers' lives and needs

As well as developing our inter- and intra-parish relationships and discipleship, we (the clergy and parishioners alike) also need to give time to being in the community, listening to and empathising with villagers' needs. Informal networks work both in our favour and against us and it is impossible to control this of course. However, being seen in the community by regularly walking around the villages and taking part consistently in village events makes a big difference.

### Finance

The good news is that we have been paying our Parish Shares in full since 2021. However, with rises to our Parish Shares, energy costs, and the relentless maintenance of our Grade 1-listed buildings, our finances are collectively quite fragile. Each PCC has made progress with Stewardship campaigns and preaching on 'giving' is done at least once a year. Each PCC also runs a range of fundraising events which are helping to balance the books, but require constant attention.

### **The Rector We Want**

Over the past four years we have been pulling together as a benefice and starting to make changes in the areas where we hear God's call. This is largely attributable to the leadership that our previous Rector has provided and we would like this approach to continue. Each of us, whether clergy or parishioners, are fellow disciples who bring different gifts. We would like somebody who wants to walk with us and to develop their skills and ours to help further build the kingdom of God in this place.

Our benefice is a mixture of traditional rural village life enlarged in recent times with new housing; this is especially so of Crick. Therefore, our Rector needs to be somebody who is willing to get alongside a diverse range of people and communities-within-communities be they villagers, parish councillors, farmers, business owners or canal boaters, consistently immersing themselves in all that is going on.

### Qualities, values and ministry

Therefore, we believe that the person who will be well-suited and happy in this post would be somebody who:

• places Jesus at the centre: through prayer, through their

relationships, by their example, through their teaching.

- will give priority to developing people.
- demonstrates strong emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills
   to engage and enable people of all ages.
- · is family-orientated.
- is team-based. Will encourage further collaboration between the parishes, where this is advantageous, while nurturing the distinctive needs and gifts of each.

- will help us innovate with different styles of worship and support existing ones; being proactive in taking stock of what's working, and what's not, and making changes when required.
- is pastoral, and willing to visit people at home or in hospital whether or not they are members of our congregations.
- will help our three churches to grow.

#### How we will support you

You will find us to be a well-organised and committed bunch and we'll do everything we can to help you to feel welcome. We will expect you to take your holidays and we will make sure that we are on top of rotas and diaries so that all the key jobs are covered and meetings are organised in good time. We will also pray for you regularly.

#### To support you we have:

- Reader: Lorna Taylor who was licensed in September
   2020.
- Volunteer children's worker for the Benefice: Barbara Brazier is currently studying for a DipHE in Theology, Ministry and Mission at Ridley Hall.
- Shepherd's Delight children's worker: A children's worker is paid by Yelvertoft PCC to run the after school club, Shepherd's Delight, and who is assisted by volunteers.
- Benefice churchwardens and assistant churchwardens: each church has two churchwardens and an assistant churchwarden.
- Lay preachers: three members of the congregation in Crick have received local training and preach periodically across the Benefice.

- **Musicians:** We have seven organists who serve across the Benefice and a worship group that leads the worship at the informal Morning Praise service in Crick. There are also regular choirs in Crick and Yelvertoft and an occasional choir in Lilbourne.
- PCCs and other volunteers: Hardworking and organised PCCs supported by other volunteers. Each parish has an experienced treasurer.
- Deanery: The Brixworth Deanery comprises forty-three parishes formed into nine benefices. Our previous Rector became Rural Dean in 2023. The Chapter meets regularly and is a good source of mutual colleague support. The Deanery Secretary and the Deanery Treasurer are both members of the Lilbourne congregation.

### What next?

Thank you for your interest in our benefice. We hope that this profile encourages you to apply and find out more about us. We look forward to meeting you and taking the conversation further.

#### To apply please contact:

Chel Cullen, PA to the Archdeacons of Northampton and Oakham

(Working hours 8am – 4pm Monday – Friday) Telephone: 01733 887019

Email: pa.archdeacons@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

### Web links

#### Church websites

• St Margaret's Crick Crick <u>https://www.stmargaretschurchcrick.org.uk/</u>

- All Saints, Lilbourne <u>https://www.lilbournechurch.org/</u>
- All Saints, Yelvertoft https://www.allsaintschurchyelvertoft.org/

#### Facebook pages

- St Margaret's, Crick <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/</u>
   <u>2590164284595506</u>
- All Saints, Yelvertoft <u>https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?</u> id=100089294512719

#### Other reference sites

- The Crick Old School <u>https://crickoldschool.co.uk/</u>
- Yelvertoft Reading Room <a href="https://thereadingroom.uk/">https://thereadingroom.uk/</a>
- History of St Margaret's (external website) <u>http://</u>

greatenglishchurches.co.uk/html/crick.html

- Crick Primary School <a href="https://www.crick.northants.sch.uk/">https://www.crick.northants.sch.uk/</a>
- Yelvertoft Primary School <u>https://www.yelvertoftprimary.com/</u>
- Guilsborough Academy <a href="https://www.guilsborough.northants.sch.uk/">https://www.guilsborough.northants.sch.uk/</a>