



The Benefice of Brize Norton with Carterton and Black Bourton in the Witney Deanery

OUR PROFILE



Visit our Benefice website at www.bncbb.org.uk or one of our individual website or facebook pages:

St Britius Church
Station Road
Brize Norton
Oxon.
OX18 3PR

www.bncommunity.org

St John the Evangelist Church
6 Burford Road
Carterton
Oxon
OX18 3AA

www.stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

St Mary the Virgin Church
Burford Road
Black Bourton
Oxon
OX18 2PF

www.blackbourton.org.uk



Friends of St Britius

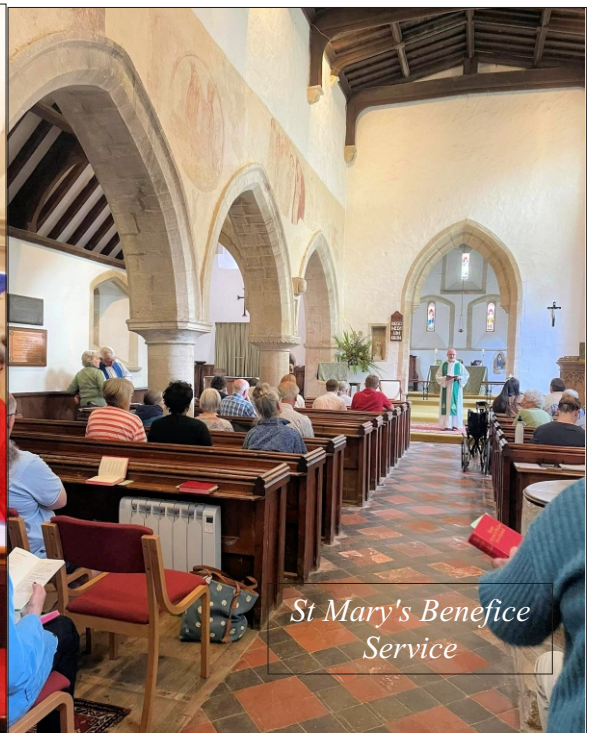


Friends of St Johns Church
Carterton

Benefice of Brize Norton with Carterton and Black Bourton (BNCBB)



*St Britius Queen's
Platinum Jubilee*



*St Mary's Benefice
Service*



St John's Service



*St John's social
event*



*St Britius Harvest
Tea*



*St Mary's
Tea & Cakes*



*St John's Messy
Church*

Foreword by Bishop Gavin

Dear potential applicants

I am delighted that you are reading this profile and encourage you to pray about whether this position might be the role to which God is now calling you.

The people of this benefice are praying for an open, enthusiastic and outward-looking rector to come and join in all that is currently happening, as well as with the many opportunities there are.

This is a very exciting opportunity for the right person to join in Kingdom work. If you are someone with a ready smile and a sense of humour, able to inspire others through your evident love of Christ, to draw people together and to join in, this could be the place for you.

You will see that the benefice has a clear vision for the right person to engage with and to extend their impact in the communities they serve. Alongside encouraging and developing the individual churches in their worship and witness, there are many opportunities in schools and in the areas of new housing.

As well as the paid staff and the existing teams of volunteers, who are keen to support their new rector in their role of spiritual oversight and leadership, the person appointed will also be able to appoint to the currently vacant Team Vicar (House for Duty) post.

You will find a friendly deanery with supportive colleagues. Our episcopal area and diocese are in good heart, expectant for all that God will do and thankful for all that God is doing.

The benefice recognises that the churches do not in all ways share the diversity of the communities they serve and would particularly welcome applications from those who would increase diversity.

Please pray about whether you might be the right minister to join us. If you decide to apply, I would be delighted to receive your application for this key position and look forward to the possibility of welcoming you as a potential colleague and partner in the Gospel.

With every blessing

+ Gavin Dorchester



Message from the Area Dean



Witney Deanery consists of a vibrant collection of 38 churches, on the edge of West Oxfordshire in the Dorchester Area of the Diocese of Oxford. It consists of the towns of Witney, Burford and Carterton, and many smaller villages. There are nine benefices with seven full-time stipendiary clergy, four house for duty posts and several retired clergy alongside considerable Lay support.

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year, holding lively meetings which focus not only on administration and financial organisation, but also provide encouragement and resources as well as sharing positive ideas and future plans. We particularly try to support smaller, rural parishes who don't always have the financial or personnel resources. We discuss current topics and share best practice, good news and whatever particular challenges we face. Recently, we revised our Deanery mission priorities to:

- 1) Working with youth, schools, children and families.
- 2) Supporting those experiencing poverty and loneliness.
- 3) Working together to care for our environment.

As a Deanery, we have been able to meet our parish share fully over the last 10 years. We are particularly trying to support the smaller parishes by creating 'smart and achievable parish share targets' and support each other to continue to enable our mission and ministry to grow.

Witney Deanery is a largely rural area on the edge of the Cotswolds, renowned for being a popular area for walking and cycling. A deanery pilgrimage walk, of about 90 miles, around all the churches was developed a few years ago and several people are working on creating some short, manageable circular walks.

The Deanery Clergy Chapter meets monthly, alternating between Zoom and in-person, to offer mutual support and share ideas, and resources for ministry and mission. We also have an active hub for Greenhouse projects (CofE Fresh Expression) that encourage churches, particularly the smaller ones, to work together for mutual support while developing ideas to nurture the faith of others.

The three churches that make up the Benefice of Brize Norton, with Carterton and Black Bourton work well together, each contributing to the whole without losing their individual personalities. They seek a Rector who can engage with the parishes, is sensitive to the different range of services and approaches to worship and is able to develop the existing congregations and new Christians in their faith. The children and young people's ministry is a huge benefit and something that could be developed further especially with plans for a new primary school and further housing developments.

As a deanery, we encourage you to make a fully-informed decision about the role so that you can discern whether God is calling you to the Deanery and this Benefice. We would encourage applicants to speak informally to Associate Archdeacon Jane, or to me and to read the websites to fully understand all that is going on. Each parish is a vibrant community, that support each other and are looking forward to supporting and working with the new Rector.

We are excited to have the opportunity to have a new colleague join our chapter and to share in ministry in this beautiful area of the country and we can assure whoever God calls among us, that you will have a warm welcome and firm support!

I am happy to talk to anyone who has further questions about the Deanery or aspects of the role.

Rev. Margaret Dixon - Area Dean – vicar@northleighchurch.org - 07354 445256

INTRODUCTION

Who and where we are

We are three parishes: St John the Evangelist Church serves the town of Carterton (population 18,000) with St Britius in the village of Brize Norton (population 2,500) and St Mary the Virgin in the village of Black Bourton (population 275). We are located in West Oxfordshire on the edge of the Cotswolds on three sides of Brize Norton RAF base. The nearest major conurbations are all approximately 15 or 20 miles away with Oxford to the east, Cheltenham to the west and Swindon to the south-west. The market town of Witney is six miles away.

Each church has its own style of worship and working collectively we offer a choice of services and activities which are open to everyone across the benefice.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a growing vibrant church, rooted in Christ, that reaches out and serves the whole community. Our aim is to be a Christ-like church: compassionate, courageous and contemplative.

We have 5 priorities arising from the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

The great commission: “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20b)

Which is the greatest commandment? Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind". This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like namely this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39)

When evaluating a ministry or project idea we will prayerfully weigh it against these priorities:

1. Evangelism
2. Worship
3. Service to others
4. Discipleship
5. Fellowship

We would like to see in the future:

- Outreach especially in the new housing estates such as Brize Meadow.
- Growing in faith, prayer, attendance in church and home groups.
- Giving and using our assets biblically.
- Progression with Eco church across all three parishes.

We want to involve as many people as possible in discerning how God wants us to develop each of these five priorities of our mission/ministry before implementing any change.

Adrian at St John's says 'Since walking through the doors of St John's as a slightly lost Christian, the welcome was so warm. Over the years the fellowship on Sundays, plus a Bible Study group in the week, is a fantastic platform to worship'

What we are praying for in our new Rector

We seek a Team Rector who is personable, engaging with all members of our communities, dynamic, sympathetic, comfortable with and able to deliver the different styles of worship across the three parishes and seek ways to grow our church memberships especially given the influx of people into the area. Parochial work, discipleship, visibility in the community and schools are as important as Sunday worship.

Our congregations are very supportive and have committed teams who keep everything running smoothly at St Britius, St John's and St Mary's. The day-to-day running is taken care of but what we would like our new Rector to be a spiritual and hands-on leader. We can provide practical support to him or her but we seek someone who can energise the congregations, the villages and the town, and awaken enthusiasm and optimism for the future. We need someone who is willing to spend time in both town and village getting to know parishioners and who can lead us in making our churches vibrant places of worship, attractive to both existing and new members of the community.

Our new Team Rector needs to develop his or her relationship with the other members of the team and the lay leaders in our three churches. He or she must have the ability to delegate as well as lead, working with and supporting the teams. We are looking for an inspirational leader and motivator, someone who will lead by example. A person who has a heart for outreach, to take full opportunity of the potential offered by the expansion of both Brize Norton and Carterton.

Amongst other characteristics, the new Team Rector should have an outgoing personality, one who relates to both adults and children, be a gifted communicator, practical and energetic. He or she will readily and joyfully embrace different styles of worship, in church tradition and theological position.

Role Description

The Benefice is looking to recruit a new incumbent into the role of Team Rector to lead our three churches. We feel there are several distinct areas that this role encompasses, as:

- A leader for the team ministry and lay leadership, responsible for three distinct but complementary parishes
- A worship and pastoral leader across the three parishes of the Benefice
- Be the first port of call for occasional offices
- Support the implementation of current PCC strategy (see vision document above)
- A spiritual teacher who can encourage an increased knowledge of the Bible and promote discipleship
- Attend community events where possible
- Engage with schools as appropriate
- Chair each of the three PCCs
- Attend Deanery Synods and Clergy Chapter
- Be willing to work with ecumenical partners where appropriate
- A mentor to any Curates, Children and Family Ministers, or Licensed Lay Ministers
- A chaplain and ex-officio Governor of St John the Evangelist CE (VA) School (see their [website](#)).

An immediate priority for the new Team Rector will be to play an integral part in working with the three church communities to appoint a successor to our recently retired Team Vicar (House for Duty post).

What we offer the new incumbent

The opportunity to employ a variety of worship styles (differing in ambience, choice of liturgy and music, use of technology as well as times of service) to satisfy the needs of each congregation and extend our worship community to attract people of all ages. A chance to engage with and serve our three communities, including RAF personnel and ex-personnel, thereby increasing the church's presence.

The exciting opportunity to reach out and engage with the residents of several new large housing estates including Brize Meadow. There are six primary schools and a secondary school which are a fertile grounds for encouraging families and young people to engage in church activities.

A new computer-based management system for the benefice to communicate with parishioners.

An active Childrens and Families Ministry team.

We have a willing team of volunteers in each church involved with pastoral care, bible study, childrens work, etc., etc.

A good place to live and enjoy both town and village life with all of the attractions of the Cotswolds, Oxford and beyond. Public transport is good with fast services to London. Health services are amongst the best in the country. There is also good school provision.

Looking after our Clergy

We as a Benefice appreciate the physical and emotional strains which ministry can place on our clergy team and are committed to support the importance of achieving a work-life balance for each member and the need for quality time to be set aside for family and personal commitments. The full clergy team (Team Rector and Team Vicar plus the Children and Families Ministers and the lay minister) operate a weekly rota of duties which incorporates specified days off. We also obviously observe the Diocesan statutory holiday entitlement. During these times, we would expect the clergy team to work together to provide adequate cover.

We appreciate that the proximity of the living accommodation of the Team Rector may, at times, mean members of the congregation and the community may be tempted to encroach on the family's privacy. We have a team of pastoral carers, who look out for the well-being of all members of our church family, and are alert and ready to respond should a need arise.

We are keen for members of the clergy team to take advantage of attending training opportunities, Diocesan conferences and retreats, and it is the practice of the PCCs to meet in full the working expenses incurred for these. We will also work with the incumbent to find resources to cover duties in a time of prolonged absence due to, for example, sabbatical leave.

Accommodation - The Rectory

The Rectory is a family home in the grounds of St John's and accessed via the church car park. Built in the 1960s, and maintained by the Diocese, it benefits from gas central heating and solar panels on the roof. There are three large reception rooms on the ground floor, one of which is used as the Rector's private

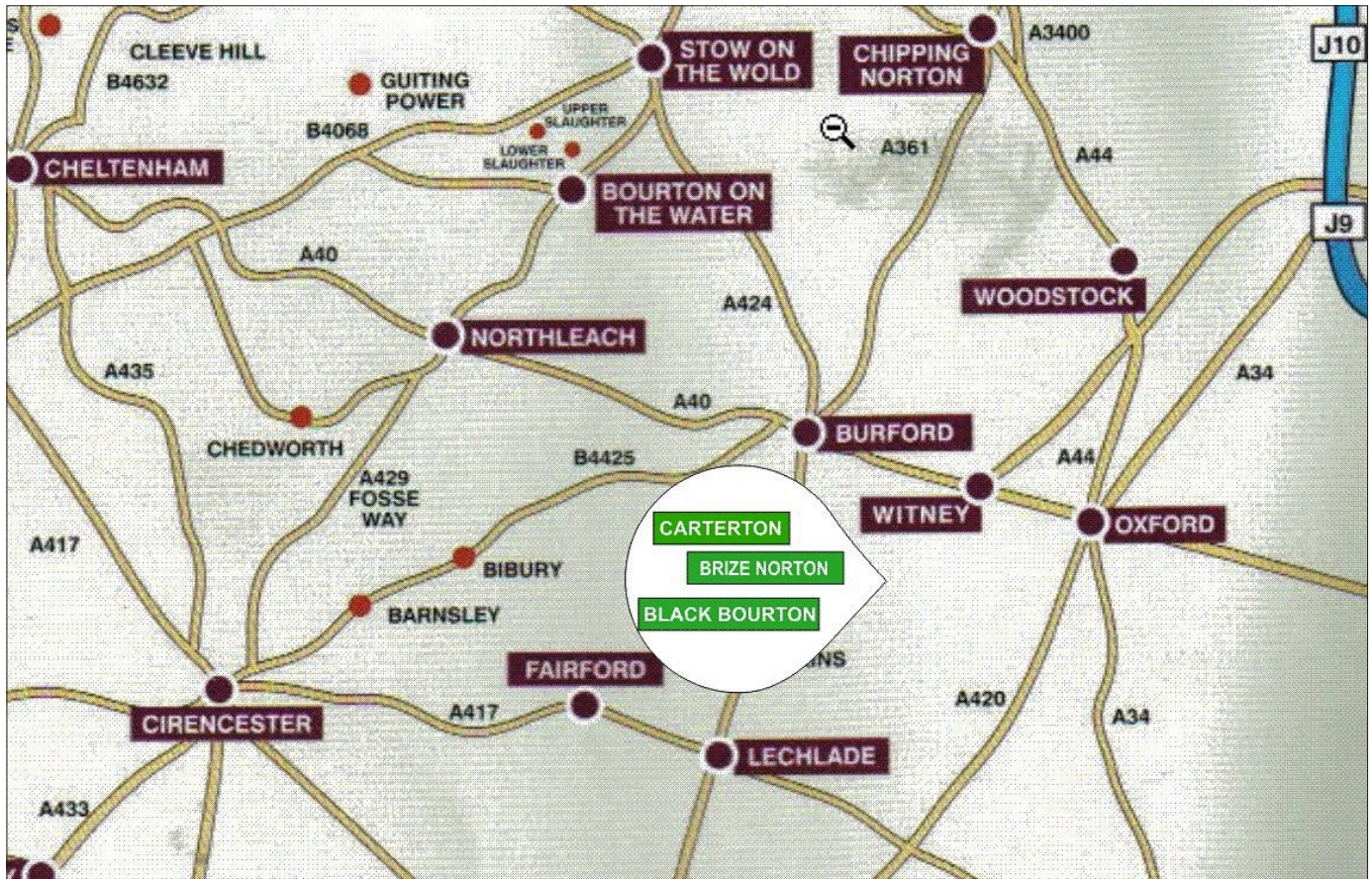


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office, a downstairs toilet, and a large family kitchen and separate utility room. The lounge has an open fireplace. There are four bedrooms on the first floor and a large family bathroom. A private well-maintained garden laid to lawn with surrounding flower beds and a vegetable garden can be found at the rear of the property. There is an integral garage and parking spaces for several cars (or even a caravan) to the front and side. There is also an electric car charging point.

LOCATION

The map shows the immediate area around the Benefice



RAF Brize Norton and the RAF Chaplaincy

Located between the three parishes is RAF Brize Norton - the largest UK air base with approximately 5,800 Service Personnel, 300 civilian staff and 1,200 contractors. The Station is home to the RAF's No. 2 Group Air Command and within that command is the HQ of Air Mobility Force which includes the flying squadrons. The website is [here](#).

Many families of RAF personnel live in Brize Norton and Carterton, both in MoD properties and private dwellings. The transient nature of service life means that there is a turnover of families regularly coming and going through postings to other areas. Detachments overseas often mean that families are left to cope at home, while one parent is away for extended periods of time. There is an opportunity to further develop relationships with the Chaplains at RAF Brize Norton.

Steve at St John's says 'In a developing town, the church is at the centre of the community and aspires to provide worship and support for families of all ages'.

ABOUT THE BENEFICE

MINISTRY TEAM

On the retirement of Rev Andrew Tweedy (Rector) and Rev Ian Howard (Team Vicar) we are being looked after by Rev Barry Hanson (Associate Priest) with the help of Ms Lyndsay Baker (LLM), Wend Smith (Family Minister and certified minister) and Jeremy Lane (authorised preacher). There is a further vacancy for the house for duties team vicar. The clergy are supported by the five churchwardens and others.

COMMUNICATIONS

We have a new Benefice website and each church has its own website. In the case of St Mary's and St Britius these form part of a village wide website. There are also facebook pages. Please see the front page for the addresses.

Behind the scenes there is a benefice database under ChurchSuite so that church rotas, calenders and personal details are held securely and which enable email and text messages to be sent to relevant members of each congregation. Each church produces a monthly printed newsletter which is posted on the web.

WORSHIP SERVICES

The current pattern of services is as follows:

St Britius	1st Sunday	Family Holy Communion (CW Prayer H & New Patterns for Worship*	9.15 am
	2nd Sunday	Holy Communion (CW Order One)	9.15 am
	3rd Sunday	Holy Communion (CW Order One)	9.15 am
	4th Sunday	Holy Communion (CW Order One)	9.15 am
	5th Sunday	Benefice Holy Communion Service in rotation	10.30 am
	Wednesdays	Said Holy Communion at St Britius (CW Order One)	7.00 pm
St John's**	1st Sunday	Holy Communion (CW Order Two)	10.30 am
	2nd Sunday	Informal Family Service	10.30 am
	3rd Sunday	Holy Communion (CW Order Two)	10.30 am
	4th Sunday	Morning Worship, without Holy Communion	10.30 am
	5th Sunday	Benefice Holy Communion Service in rotation	10.30 am
	Thursdays	Said Holy Communion at St John's (CW Order Two)	10.30 am
St Mary's	1st Sunday	No service	
	2nd Sunday	Holy Communion (CW Order One)	11.00 am
	3rd Sunday	No service	
	4th Sunday	Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer	6.00 pm
	5th Sunday	Benefice Holy Communion service in rotation	10.30 am

* Prayers A2, B56, B73, E12 & J58

** Sunday services at St John's are recorded live and transmitted through YouTube for remote watching. St John's also holds monthly an afternoon session known as Creative Space and also Messy Church monthly at 4 pm. Special services include a Battle of Britain Service and a Bereavement Service.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

We have good links with all the five primary schools in Carterton and the Brize Norton Primary School, leading assemblies and special festivals regularly, and partner-up with the Catholic School on occasion. We work closely with our Church of England (VA) School also called St. John's, where we lead collective worship once a week. Carterton Community College is our secondary school where we are building relationships and offering pastoral support.

St John's

Families are actively welcomed to attend our Sunday morning services at St John's. On the second Sunday of the month there is an 'informal' worship, which is led by the Children and Families Ministry team and school age children and young people.

A Christmas Eve Crib Service is well attended, as is the 'no rehearsal' nativity service on the second Sunday in December. A Christingle service is held during the Christmas period which is also very popular, and we hold separate Christingle services for schools if they are requested.

'Messy Church' has previously been very popular and we are actively looking at ways this can be improved.

We run a very popular toddler 'drop-in' session every Friday during the school term for children aged 0-5 and their grown ups. It has been running for almost 30 years and we see between 20 and 30 people a week, and pastoral care and prayer ministry is offered as required.

There are three children's fellowship groups a week; two sessions are for children aged 5-11, and one for secondary school aged children. We have 26 children on these registers, and every week we chat, pray, talk about the Bible and do activities such as playing games or crafts. They are also encouraged to join in at the informal services and we use these sessions to prepare.

We are starting a 'drop-in' club for secondary school aged children on Mondays called 'TNT' (Tea and Toast), where children can spend an hour after school in the church hall, having a snack and play games such as pool, do their homework or just spend time with their friends.

We are planning a 'Minecraft Church', where people of all ages can explore a Bible lesson through the computer game 'Minecraft', or with Lego or junk modelling. This is expected to be ready to start by the end of January 2025.

St Britius

Although we have had a thriving Sunday Club over the years, we currently do not have enough children coming regularly to our services to hold one. However, organised craft activities are available during All Age Worship (Family Communion) and other services at St Britius and the results are displayed around the church for all to see. There is a very well equipped children's area. At our Carol Service children take part in a Nativity Tableau. The Brownies come carol singing with us around the village. Our Christingle service takes place at Candlemas when the children make their own Christingles. On Easter Day the children help tell the Easter Story during the service by making an Easter Garden. Gifts of dried food are presented by the children at Harvest Festival. All families who have had children baptized are invited to our Christingle service. The children can see their names added to the Baptismal Rolls on the wall of the church.

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The children of Brize Norton Primary School have services in church at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance, and are visited in school for assembly on a regular basis.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

2023	St Britius	St John's	St Mary's
Baptisms	10	19	3
Weddings	0	0	2
Funerals	6	11	10

CHURCHYARDS

St Britius has its own open churchyard extension situated opposite the church. Burials and interment of ashes are conducted as needed. This is principally for use of village residents and those on the electoral roll or with proven links to the church. The burial registers date back to 1568.

St John's has no churchyard. Although identified as a need in the Town Council's long range strategic planning, Carterton does not currently have a burial ground within the town.

St Mary's sits in its own open churchyard which is also home to 36 Commonwealth War Graves. There is a small section to the east of the church for military personnel who have served at RAF Brize Norton. The west end of the churchyard leads into Carterton Town Council's public cemetery and is owned and managed by them.

Four crematoria serve the area: Oxford in Headington, Oxford; Garford in South Oxfordshire; Tackley, North Oxfordshire and Kingsdown in West Swindon. There are two funeral directors in Carterton and several more in Witney.

PASTORAL CARE & HOME COMMUNION

The clergy team assisted by the laity, including St John's pastoral care team, provide home communions and visit care homes across the benefice.

PRAYER MINISTRY

We hold monthly prayer meetings and there is a small team of prayer ministers who offer prayer after Sunday services and special events.

Ben said 'St Britius is a small, but beautifully formed fellowship of people'.

A St Mary's parishioner said 'My mother served at Brize Norton after the war - she loved this church and its churchyard. It means so much to us that you have agreed to have her in the Military Graves Section'

SAFEGUARDING

We take safeguarding very seriously with appointed qualified safeguarding officers.

ECO CHURCH

St John's has reached Silver and would like this work to continue.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bible studies and Home Groups

Home Group	Mike Watt's	Bimonthly	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	1.30 - 3.00 pm	website
Home Group	St John's	Weekly	Tuesday	7.30 pm	website/
Mens Bible Study		Monthly	1st Wednesday		website
Bible Study	St Mary's	Seasonal	Tuesdays	5.15 pm	
Lent Course	St Britius	Seasonal	Wednesday	7.30 pm	

Fellowship Activities

Pilgrims Lunch	St Britius	Weekly	Tuesdays	12 noon	
Warm Space Coffee & Chat	St John's	Twice Monthly	1st & 3rd Wednesday	Mid morning	website/
Inspire	St John's	Twice Monthly	2nd & 4th Wednesday	afternoon	website
Family Breakfast	St John's	Bimonthly	Saturday	8.30 am	website
Mens Breakfast	St John's	Bimonthly	2nd Saturday	8.30 am	website
Epiphany/Lent/ Harvest Teas/Lunches	St Britius	Seasonal	Saturday	Lunchtime/ tea time	

Seasonal services and other activities

Seasonal

Christmas Longest Night Service at St Britius & St John's, Candlelit Carol Service at St Britius and Santa's Grotto at St Mary's, Christingle, Carol and Crib Services at St John's. Christmas Fayres, concerts and normal services including Midnight Mass

Benefice of Brize Norton with Carterton and Black Bourton (BNCBB)

February/March	Christingle and Pancake Supper at St Britius, Burns Night at St John's
Easter	Tenebrae Service at St Britius. Compline every evening during Holy Week at St Marys', plus normal Easter Services at all three churches
June	Flower Festival in St Mary's. Flower Festival (NGS Open Gardens) at St Britius
July/August	Brize Norton Village Bash, Holiday Club at St John's
September	Ride & Stride at St Britius, Battle of Britain Civic Service (Carterton)
October	Bereavement Service at St John's
November	Bonfire at Brize Norton, Remembrance at all three churches. Christmas Bazaar & coffee morning at St Mary's

Other

Aunt Sally	St John's	website
Family Picnics	St John's	website
Death Café	St John's	
Gardening Club	St Mary's	

OUR THREE CHURCHES

St John's

St John's Church is a Parish Centre for Worship and began life in 1908 as a Mission Church in the Parish of Black Bourton. It was rebuilt in 1963 as a dual-purpose hall/church and developed again in 1994 with a new worship area and other facilities including an office. It first had its own minister in the 1960's and the vicarage was built in 1962. Another phase of building was completed in 2010 to extend the church yet further by adding a small tea room, a catering kitchen and storage and, as a result, is now a modern multi-purpose, well equipped building offering a wide range of activities to the community, and a capacity to hold services for up to about 250 people.

In addition to church activities, significant use is made of the building through the hiring of its facilities to groups within the community. Uniformed youth groups such as Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and exercise classes, all hire the hall. We can also provide a meeting/training course venue for local organisations and end of term school services are held in our worship area.

St. John's Church offers a relaxed variety of services. Alb and stole vestments are worn for Holy Communion on Sunday's and midweek services. Morning Worship is lay led without robes and our informal service is led by our Children's and Family Minister and the children.

St Britius

St Britius church is Norman with 13th Century additions and is a Grade II* listed building. It was refurbished in 1886 with many Victorian embellishments. In recent years we have made several improvements. We have added toilet facilities and a small kitchen area in the tower and, following a very successful fund raising campaign involving the whole village and including support from English Heritage, we replaced a significant part of the roof in 2013 at a cost in excess of £400,000, installed electric under pew heating and a chiming mechanism for the six bells.. The church is open on Sunday until dusk. More information can be found on the church's [website](#).

St. Britius is more traditional with Holy Communion every Sunday and midweek. Alb and stole vestments are usually worn, with a chasuble on festival days.

St Mary's

St Mary's dates back to the 12th Century when the chancel was first constructed followed shortly by the nave. In the 13th Century alterations took place which included the addition of the Hungerford Chapel on the north side and it is thought that this is when the wall paintings were completed. The Tower is said to date from 1500 and held 6 bells until 1 bell was given to the Mission Church in Carterton, which is now St John's. The church is Grade 1 listed. After falling into disrepair, a restoration programme was undertaken in 1866 by Vicar Lupton and this is when the pews were added. In 2017 the Chancel roof was replaced followed in 2018 by the complete restoration of the bells and bell tower. A sixth bell was added and for the first time in almost 60 years the bells were rung again. In 2022, when the old boiler broke down, an electric under pew heating system was installed and in 2023 the roof on the north aisle was replaced and a toilet and kitchen/vestry added. The church is open every day until dusk. More information can be found on the Black Bourton village [website](#).

St. Mary's Church is also a traditional church. Alb and stole vestments are the regular vestment at Holy Communion and BCP Evening prayer

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

The three parishes maintain their own accounts and each has a restricted fabric fund. The accounts for year ending 2023 showed expenditure: unrestricted funds for St Britius £15k, St John's £144k and St Mary's £12k. St Mary's spent £78K from its fabric fund. At the year end St Britius have £6k (unrestricted) and £30k (restricted), St John's have £740k (unrestricted restricted combined) and St Mary's have £8k (unrestricted) and £19k (restricted). St John's have an investment fund built on a legacy which has been called upon to help a shortfall of income and to pay for two Children and Family Ministers as well as help with St Britius' parish share. The parish share 2025 for each parish is St Britius £14,194, St John's £63,380 and St Mary's £6,327.

All three churches encourage planned giving and work hard to accumulate funds through events.

THE BROADER CONTEXT

Ecumenical Links

We actively support collaboration with the four other churches in Carterton ([Catholic](#), [HorizonChurch](#), [Methodist](#) and [Victory Christian Fellowship](#)) who work together under the banner *Carterton Churches in Unity*. Recent examples include Easter Workshops, Christmas Live Nativity in the town and a Walk of Witness.

Cultural Changes

Some of our most significant challenges arise from cultural changes. Church attendance is becoming less frequent, even among core church members, while regular attendance used to mean three to four times a month, busy and mobile lifestyles are reducing this. Hence the need for discipleship, good communication, a range of services and activities and to strengthen and grow our church communities. We must address the needs of people in hardship, to this end our harvest gifts go to the Besom project in Witney. We provide "shoe boxes" with Christmas gifts through T4U for children in Eastern Europe. In addition, St Johns support a number of charities including The Children's Society. It is also a partner of Christians Against Poverty in Witney and supports the Gatehouse Project in Oxford.

Shirley said 'When I enter St Britius church, I feel a real sense of peace and calm'

*A St Mary's parishioner said 'The church is a peaceful retreat when I visit the cemetery.
Thank you for keeping it open all day.'*

Benefice of Brize Norton with Carterton and Black Bourton (BNCBB)



Remembrance



Burns Night



St Mary's Concert



The Christmas Story



Childrens activity



Holiday Club



Pilgrims Lunch



Pancake Supper

BENEFICE SUMMARY

Benefice:	Brize Norton with Carterton and Black Bourton
Patron(s):	Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral & Eton College
PCCs: (Names and numbers only)	Brize Norton PCC (St Britius): Team Rector, Team Vicar, 6 Lay members; ex officio members St John's: Team Rector; 9 Lay members; ex officio members including the clergy team St Mary's: Team Rector, 6 Lay members, ex officio members
Churchwardens:	St Britius: two – Dr Philip Holmes, Rossie Sewell St John's: two – Allister Holt, Alison Brown St Mary's two - Ilene Bussell, vacancy
Ministers:	Rev Barry Hanson (Associate Priest), Lyndsay Baker (Licensed Lay Minister), Wend Smith (Children and Family Minister), Jeremy Lane (authorised preacher)
Benefice paid staff:	Two Children and Family Ministers
Benefice unpaid staff/volunteers (numbers):	St Britius: PCC Secretary, Treasurer, Deanery Synod Representative, Electoral Roll Officer plus most of the congregation. St John's: Treasurer & Deputy Treasurer + 2 finance team members, PCC Secretary/Electoral Roll Officer. Various volunteers for activity groups, pastoral care and service duty rota. St Mary's: Treasurer and Deputy treasurer, Secretary, Deanery Synod Rep, Electoral Roll Officer, Safeguarding Officer, Churchyard maintenance volunteers.
Buildings:	Described earlier (*)
Churchyard(s):	Yes for St Britius and for St Mary's. No for St John's (see above)
Church Tradition:	Described earlier (*)

(*) For more information, please refer to earlier relevant sections of this document.

Electoral Roll

2024	St Britius	St John's	St Mary's
	20	69	22