

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



OUR PROFILE FOR A TEAM VICAR

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



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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 a kind, enthusiastic and personable Team Vicar (House for Duty) who would love to come and join them in proclaiming the Good News across the benefice and its communities.

Here you will find clear vision and defined priorities that guide the ministry and mission offered: Helping people deepen their discipleship, reaching out to areas of new housing, being a visible presence in the communities, to name just a few.

If you are someone who loves to share the love of God and offer spiritual leadership, who likes to work as part of a team and collaborate, who can take things in your stride, and also have a sense of fun, this could be the place for you.

In turn you will be cared for as part of the church family as there is an appreciation of the strain that ministry can place on clergy. The benefice is committed to supporting a work/life balance for each member of the team. Recognising the importance of well-being and personal development, there is an understanding of the importance of retreats and training opportunities.

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

The Rt Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester





Message from the Deanery Lay Chair

Witney Deanery consists of a vibrant collection of 38 churches with a wide range of theological views and worship styles. The deanery sits on the edge of West Oxfordshire in the Dorchester Area of the Diocese of Oxford, including the towns of Witney, Burford and Carterton. There are nine benefices with seven full-time stipendiary clergy, four house for duty posts and several retired clergy alongside considerable Lay support.

We hold three Deanery Synod meetings each year. We discuss current topics, share best practice and good news: all with an aim to provide encouragement to both the lay and ordained members of the deanery. We have agreed three mission priorities as a deanery:

- Working with children, young people, families and schools.
- Supporting those experiencing poverty and loneliness.
- Working together to care for our environment.

Our Mission Action Plan encourages parishes to focus growth on one area, all linked to the Diocese wide drive for us to be more Christ-like Church, by being contemplative, compassionate and courageous for the sake of God's world.

I understand 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 are excited to add to the current team in the Benefice of Brize Norton, with Carterton and Black Bourton. Their Team Rector, Rev. Barry, is a very personable and jovial soul: we are looking forward to growing his team and adding someone that will fit the mix of ecclesiology on offer in the Benefice. The Benefice offers a range of geographic locations: town, village and new estate, so much variety for the new post holder to enjoy and engage with.

We look forward to welcoming you into our Deanery.

We pray this application process will be a blessing and rich learning opportunity for you.

Our prayers.

Maria Skoyles
Lay Chair
On behalf of the Witney Deanery.



A message from Rev Barry Hanson, Team Rector

Thank you for your interest in the opportunity to help proclaim the Good News in this great benefice. Carterton is a great place to be and the villages of Brize Norton and Black Bourton are friendly and have their own unique feel too. In this area bordering the Cotswolds, there is something for everyone. Our congregations are increasingly vibrant and with your help they can continue to flourish and grow. We are looking for someone who can work both collaboratively and independently, who has a sensible head, and is able to be a visible presence in the communities. Tradition is important in some areas, but folks are also open to experimentation and a jolly good laugh.

If you wish for an informal chat or visit in advance of an application, then do contact either the Associate Archdeacon, Jane Haslam (email jane.haslam@oxford.anglican.org) or myself on 07949 654988 or email rector@bncbb.org.uk.

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 the RAF Brize Norton 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. We seek a Team Vicar to help us in our mission for all to know God.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a growing vibrant church 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: “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)

The Great Commandments: 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 and to the schools.
- Growth in faith, prayer, attendance in church and home groups.
- An increased presence in each of the communities served.
- To be teaching churches.
- 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.

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



What we are praying for in our new Team Vicar

We seek a Team Vicar who is personable and must be able to engage with all members of our communities. They must be dynamic, comfortable with and able to deliver 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. The Team Vicar will have a sense of humour and an ability to work as part of a team. Amongst other characteristics, the new Team Vicar should have an outgoing personality, one who relates to both adults and children, be a gifted communicator, both practical and energetic.

We are looking for an inspirational person and motivator, someone who will lead by example and can work independently making good use the support available and guidance from the Team Rector. They will be 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. A priority for the Team Vicar is to engage with people on the Brize Meadow and Shilton Park Estates.

Our congregations are very supportive and have committed teams who keep everything operating 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 Team Vicar to be is a spiritual and hands-on leader. We can provide practical support to him or her but we seek someone who can motivate 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.

Role Description

Following the retirement of the previous Team Vicar the Benefice is looking to recruit a new Team Vicar (House for Duty Post) to join the ministry team. Hours worked must include Sundays and two days or equivalent as agreed with the Team Rector. There may also be an opportunity to work an additional paid workday under separate UK employment terms with St John the Evangelist church. This additional day's work would fall under UK employment legislation and be governed by a separate set of terms and conditions of employment, which are distinct from and do not apply to the ecclesiastical office of House for Duty within the Benefice of Brize Norton with Carterton and Black Bourton in the Witney Deanery. The ministry team are supported by the five churchwardens and other church officers.

We feel there are several distinct areas that this role encompasses, as:

- A member of the team ministry led by our Team Rector (Rev Barry Hanson), responsible for three distinct but complementary parishes.
- To conduct worship in the appropriate manner and tradition across the three churches in the benefice.
- Carry out pastoral offices as required.
- Support the implementation of current PCC strategy.
- Engage with people on the Brize Meadow and Shilton Park Estates and encourage them to come to church.
- Be a spiritual teacher who can encourage an increased knowledge of the Bible and promote discipleship.
- Attend community events where possible.
- Work in partnership with the Youth and Community Minister as necessary and engage with schools as appropriate.
- Attend Ministry Team Meetings, Deanery Synods and Clergy Chapter.
- Be flexible in their work, have effective diary management and be efficient in administration and planning.

What we offer the new Team Vicar

- The opportunity to deliver 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.

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'

- A chance to engage with and serve our three communities, including RAF personnel and ex-personnel, thereby increasing the church's presence in the community.
- The exciting opportunity to reach out in collaboration with the Youth and Community Minister and engage with the residents of several large housing estates including Brize Meadow. There are six primary schools and a secondary school which are fertile grounds for encouraging families and young people to engage in church activities.
- 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 from Oxford and Swindon. Health services are amongst the best in the country. There is also very good school provision.
- Use of Churchsuite (for which there is technical and administrative support) for the benefice to communicate with parishioners.
- An active Youth and Community Minister.
- A willing team of volunteers in each church involved with pastoral care, Bible study, children's work and numerous other activities.

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 Youth and Community Minister and the Licensed Lay Minister) operate a weekly rota of duties which incorporates specified days off.

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, with 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 Team Vicar to cover duties in times of absence due to, for example, holidays.

Accommodation

The Team Vicar's house is situated on the Shilton Park Estate and is a large detached house built in 2004. There are four reception rooms including a study, plus a kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms (two en-suite and one with a dressing area) and a double garage. The house is gas centrally heated. There is a private garden to the rear. It is in easy walking distance of St John's School, the facilities at the centre of the estate, the Country Park and those in Brize Meadow.



RAF Brize Norton and the RAF Chaplaincy

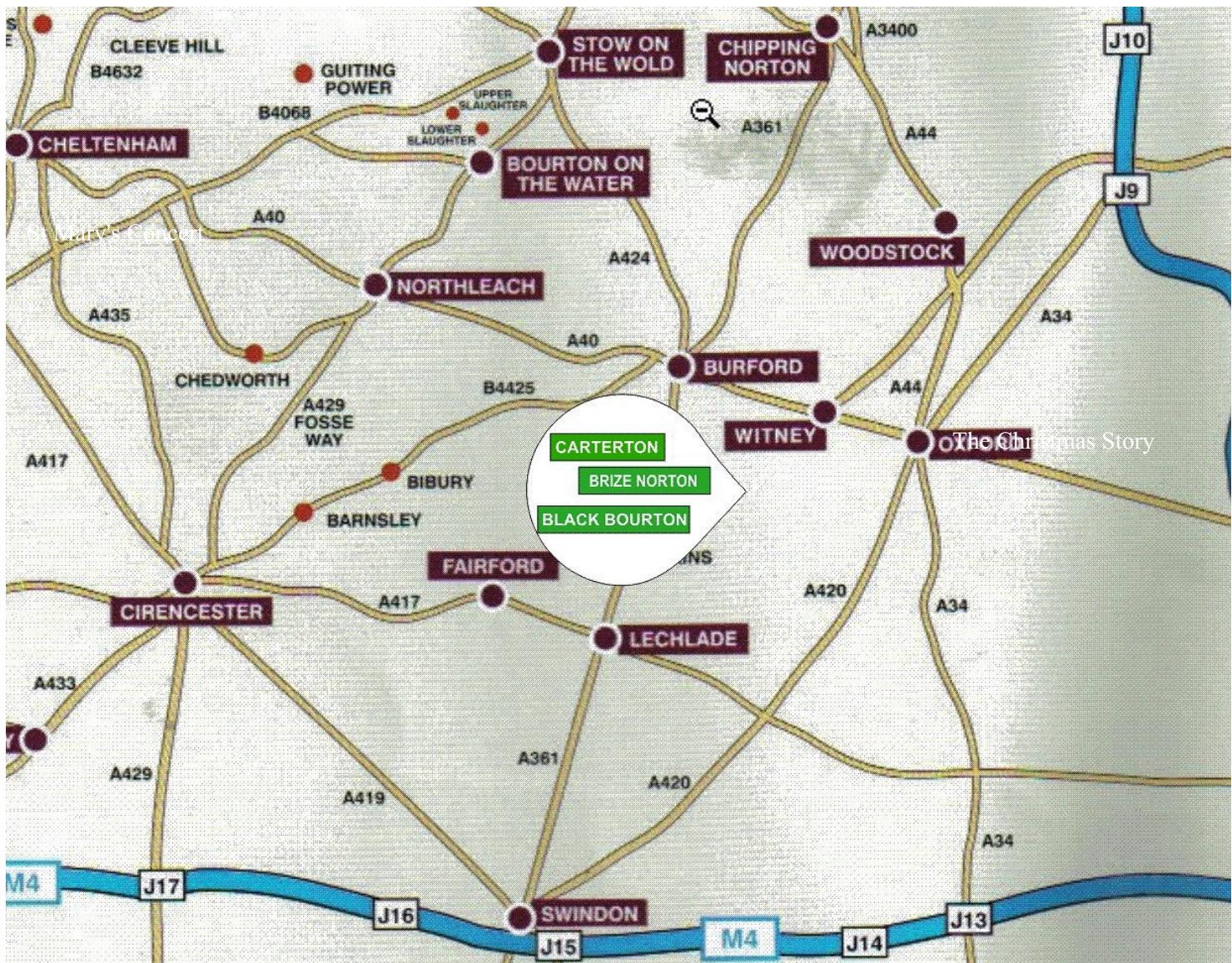
Located between the three parishes is RAF Brize Norton - the largest UK air base with approximately 5,800 service personnel, 300 civilian staff and 1,200 contractors. The Station is home to the RAF's No. 2 Group Air Command and within that command is the HQ of Air Mobility Force which includes the flying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

Many families of RAF personnel live in Brize Norton and Carterton, both in MoD properties and private houses. 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.

LOCATION

The map shows the immediate area around the Benefice.



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'

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



Remembrance



Burns Night



St Mary's Concert



The Christmas Story



Children's activity



Holiday Club



Pilgrims Lunch



Pancake Supper

ABOUT THE BENEFICE

MEET THE TEAM MINISTRY



REV BARRY HANSON – TEAM RECTOR

I came to England in 1995 with a backpack – young and excitable – from a small farming valley in Queensland, Australia, originally intending to stay for only a few years and but yet I am still here! I was a secondary school teacher for over 20 years; teaching Business Studies and Information Technology (when I first started it was called Business Principles and Typewriting!), culminating as a head of faculty in a very large school in Reading. God had different plans for me to be a “different kind of teacher”, and use those skills to proclaim the Good News to all and sundry. I like to present the idea that Christians are normal folks! I also enjoy visiting the many different schools in the benefice giving assemblies and working collaboratively with the gifted Youth Minister and ever cheerful Lay Minister (who is now undergoing ordination training at Cuddesdon) and I meet new folks every day. My role is of course very busy, and I get out and about as much as is possible, being a firm believer in that all ministers must be a visible presence in their community. After a year and a half as Associate Priest, I was appointed and licenced as Team Rector here in April 2025. St John’s Church is being increasingly recognised for its work and outreach in Carterton, and we have lots of activities going on in Brize Norton and the Black Bourton too. My interests include the work of the Faraday Institute in Cambridge that explores the complementarity between science and faith. I am also becoming very interested in theological aesthetics and try to make my sermons and reflection during worship services both entertaining and informative, often leaving the folks a key question to ponder for the week. I often tell the benefice members that there is something for everyone here and they are spoilt for choice with a range of traditional services to more contemporary ones. Folks here are always open to a jolly good laugh too!

MRS LYNDSDAY BAKER – LICENCED LAY MINISTER

I have been part of St. John’s Church since my husband moved here in 2000 with the RAF. I have previously worked as a nurse and a midwife; I am a spiritual director, and now an ordinand at Ripon College Cuddesdon.

I currently lead a home group in Bible studies, I train and encourage both adult and child prayer ministry teams, and I regularly lead and preach at a variety of services across the benefice as a Licensed Lay Minister. A big part of my role has always been to support the ministry team, and our wonderful volunteers. As well as all this, listening to and encouraging others in their faith to a deeper relationship with Jesus always gives me a fuzzy feeling of joy!

I have a growing sense of God being on the move in exciting new ways within our communities and churches. Outside of church life I enjoy creative journaling, gardening, going to the cinema with friends, and spending time with my family.



MS WEND SMITH – YOUTH AND COMMUNITY MINISTER



I am Carterton born and bred; I started attending St John’s at the age of eight when I was invited to a holiday club. After a decades-long absence from church when I moved around the country, making silly decisions, and working in finance and digital marketing during Christmas 2021, I came back to St John’s completely by chance. God called me back here and I am now proud to have been the Youth & Community Minister for over two years, and I am incredibly blessed to work with and be mentored by the Team Rector and Licensed Lay Minister. I work with children from babies to sixteen, running kid’s clubs after school and a youth club, as well as helping at our church toddler group and visiting four local schools to deliver assemblies. I love working with children of all ages but my passion is youth ministry, and I am looking forward to working with a new Team Vicar who is fired up to grow this exciting sphere in our ministry. My hobbies include crafts, reading novels, computer gaming, spending time with my two pugs, and I love retro pop culture.

COMMUNICATIONS

We have a new Benefice website that continues to be developed and each church has its own website. In the case of St Mary's and St Britius these form part of village wide websites. There are also Facebook pages for St John's and St Britius. 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.

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). Traditional language.	9.15 am
	3rd Sunday	Holy Communion (CW Order One). Traditional language.	9.15 am
	4th Sunday	Holy Communion (CW Order One). Traditional language.	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 & New Patterns for Worship)	10.30 am
	2nd Sunday	Informal Family Service (lay led)	10.30 am
	3rd Sunday	Holy Communion (CW Order Two & New Patterns for Worship)	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 One)	10.30 am
St Mary's	1st Sunday	No service	
	2nd Sunday	Holy Communion (CW Order One). Traditional language.	10.30 am
	3rd Sunday	No service	
	4th Sunday	Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer or Holy Communion	6.00 pm
	5th Sunday	Benefice Holy Communion service in rotation	10.30 am

* Sunday services at St John's are recorded live and transmitted through YouTube and Facebook for remote watching. Powerpoints are used creatively at all St John's services and these are produced by the person leading the service.

WORSHIP & TEACHING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Links with the local schools in the Benefice are maintained by the Rector and our Youth and Community Minister, providing regular assembly services at nearly all the local schools: St John's Church of England Primary, Edith Moorhouse and Carterton Primary in Carterton, plus Brize Norton Primary School. Several schools come to St John's for Christmas and Easter services. The church hosts the end of academic year Valedictory Service for Carterton Community College. St John's church provides two Foundation Governors for St John's School one of which is the Rector.

The Benefice is looking forward to being able to encourage and maintain the burgeoning faith journey of these young children as they grow into teenagers.

St John's

The multiple Kids' and Friendship Clubs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for children up to sixteen years of age provides a forum to offer Christian teaching. These children have become very comfortable helping at the monthly Informal Service. The Youth and Community Minister has continued her training and has many exciting ideas for the programme of events. An additional group meeting on Mondays (Tea and Toast) for secondary school students has proved popular. Minecraft Church has been started following a trial and the purchase of computer tablets by the PCC. (These tablets are also available to support online Safeguarding training programs.)

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. Holiday Clubs take place in the school spring and summer holidays.

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 Youth and Communities Minister 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.

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

St Britius

Organised craft activities are available for children during 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 the Candlelit Carol Service children take part in a "Nativity Tableau". The Brownies come carol singing with us around the village. St Britius 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 regular services and especially for our Christingle service. The children can see their names added to the Baptismal Rolls on the wall of the church.

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

St Mary's

A small village with few children, but a highlight is the Christmas festivities with carol singing and a Christmas concert.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS*

2024	St Britius	St John's	St Mary's
Baptisms	6	11	1
Weddings	0	0	1
Funerals	1	11	7

* For 2025 across the Benefice there are two weddings and 17 baptisms booked already.

CHURCHYARDS

St Britius has its own open churchyard extension situated opposite the church. Burials and interment of ashes are conducted as needed. The burial registers date back to 1568. There are 3 Commonwealth War Graves.

St John's has no churchyard.

St Mary's has 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.

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'.

PASTORAL CARE, HELP FOR THE VULNERABLE & HOME COMMUNION

The clergy team assisted by the laity, including St John's pastoral care team, provide home Communions and visits.

We 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 John's support a number of charities including The Children's Society. St John's is also a partner of Christians Against Poverty in Witney and supports the Gatehouse Homeless Project in Oxford.

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.

SAFEGUARDING

We take safeguarding very seriously with an appointed trained safeguarding officer who reports directly to the Team Rector and the PCCs.

ECO CHURCH

St John's has reached the Silver Award and would like to continue onto Gold.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bible studies and Home Groups

Home Group	St John's	1 Bimonthly	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	1.30 - 3.00 pm
Home Group	St John's	2 Weekly	Tuesday	7.30 pm
Bible Study	St Mary's	Seasonal	Tuesdays	5.15 pm
Lent Course	St Britius	Seasonal	Tuesday	12.00 noon
Lent Course	St John's	Seasonal	Mon/Fri	7.00 pm

Fellowship Activities

St Britius

Pilgrims Lunch	Weekly	Tuesdays	12 noon
Lunches/Teas	Seasonal	Saturday	lunch/tea time

St John's

Warm Space Coffee & Chat	Twice Monthly	Thurs from Sep	.mid morning
Inspire Twice Monthly	2nd & 4th	Wednesdays	Afternoon
Family Breakfast	Bimonthly	Saturday	8.30 am
Men's Breakfast	Bimonthly	Saturday	8.30 am
Easter Breakfast			am
Harvest Supper			pm
Lunches/Teas	Seasonal	Varies	Varies

Seasonal services and other activities

Christmas	Longest Night Service at St Britius and 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
January	Burns Night at St John's
February/March	Christingle and Pancake Supper at St Britius
Easter	Tenebrae Service at St Britius. Compline every evening during Holy Week at St Mary's, plus normal Easter Services at all three churches. Ecumenical walk of witness at St John's
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, St John's Battle of Britain Civic Service (Carterton)
October	Bereavement Service at St John's
November	"Open Church" evening at St John's. Bonfire at Brize Norton, Remembrance at all three churches. Christmas Bazaar & coffee morning at St Mary's

Every three months on a Sunday Afternoon St John's hosts a Ecumenical sing and praise for health and wellbeing service led by laity. St John's also hold family picnics and social events. St Mary's run coffee mornings, Gardening and Film Clubs.

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 rectory 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 superb commercial standard 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 Brownies and Rainbows 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 also offer "party packages" for families to hold their own children's parties.

St. John's Church offers a variety of church services. Alb and stole vestments are worn for Holy Communion on Sundays and for midweek communion services. Morning Worship is lay led without robes and the informal service are led by our Youth and Community 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 there have been 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, a significant part of the roof was replaced in 2013 at a cost in excess of £400,000, an electric under pew heating system and a chiming mechanism for the six bells were installed. 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 worn, with a chasuble on festival days.



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'.*

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. August 2025 saw the commencement of a new roof for the South porch which will be the final restoration project to put all St Mary's roofs in good order. 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 worn at Holy Communion and at BCP Evening prayer, choir dress is worn.



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

The three parishes maintain their own accounts and each has a restricted fabric fund. The three churches are each on a sound footing and the parish share has always been paid in full. St John's has significant financial reserves.

All three churches encourage planned giving and work hard to accumulate funds through events that attract many from our communities.

THE BROADER CONTEXT

Ecumenical Links

We actively support collaboration with the four other churches in Carterton ([Roman 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.

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, Team Vicar, 9 Lay members, ex officio members St Mary's: Team Rector, Team Vicar, 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 (Team Rector), Lyndsay Baker (Licensed Lay Minister), Wend Smith (Youth and Community Minister)
Benefice paid staff:	Youth and Community Minister
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 and Deputy Treasurer + 2 finance team members, PCC Secretary/Electoral Roll Officer. Various volunteers for activity groups, pastoral care and service duty rota. There is also a Safeguarding Officer and Facilities Manager. St Mary's: Treasurer and Deputy treasurer, Secretary, Deanery Synod Rep., Electoral Roll Officer, Safeguarding Officer, Churchyard maintenance volunteers.
Buildings:	Described earlier in this document
Churchyard(s):	Yes for St Britius and for St Mary's. No for St John's.
Church Tradition:	Described earlier in this document

For further information contact Rev Barry Hanson. Email rector@bncbb.org.uk or phone 07949 654988

Electoral Roll

2025	St Britius	St John's	St Mary's
	19	60	22