



**A Profile of
The New Mission Community
of the Parishes of
St Augustine, Heanton Punchardon
St Michael and All Angels, Marwood
St Calixtus, West Down
and
St George's, Georgeham
with St Mary's, Croyde
North Devon
Including a Role Description
and Specification
for a
Priest in Charge / Team Rector Designate
Barnstaple Archdeaconry
The Diocese of Exeter**

Contents

1. Archdeacon's Foreword
2. What Does 'Future Church' Look Like?
3. Person Specification
4. What we can offer
5. Introduction
6. Worship
7. Facts and Figures
8. Ministry Team
9. Finance
10. Local Information
11. The Rectory
12. The Parishes
 - a. The Villages Mission Community
 - i. Heanton Punchardon
 - ii. Marwood
 - iii. West Down
 - b. The Parish of Georgeham with Croyde
13. Websites and contacts

1. Archdeacon's Foreword

Set in the northwest corner of Devon, close to Barnstaple and Ilfracombe, the parishes of Heanton Punchardon, Marwood, West Down, and Georgeham with Croyde serve an area of incredible beauty, with a stunning coastline. The area is a wonderful place to live and a magnet for holiday visitors.

We are looking for an Evangelical priest to help the parishes explore God's call upon them into a new future. Each have their different styles of worship and ministry, and a sensitivity to this diversity will be important, but so should be a willingness to think differently, to challenge and to explore together what 'Future Church' might look like in this context. In this you will have the support of committed, prayerful and mission-minded congregations and excellent colleagues (stipendiary, SSM and retired clergy and Lay Readers). A commitment to collaborative working is therefore essential.

Currently the parishes form two separate benefices: Heanton Punchardon, Marwood and West Down in one, Georgeham with Croyde in the other. They have been served by two full-time stipendiary priests. But in the long term they will become a single benefice – a Team Ministry - with a 1.0 Team Rector based in Heanton and a 0.5 Team Vicar based in Georgeham. A key task of the new Team Rector designate will be to work with Mike Newbon, the Rector of Georgeham with Croyde, to move all the parishes towards this new future.

Though pastorally responsible for Heanton, Marwood and West Down, the new priest will need to devote a proportion of their time to working in Georgeham and Croyde as well. Whilst there are two fulltime stipendiary clergy, there is a great opportunity to develop the mission and ministry of the parishes, not least by calling out, developing and empowering further lay ministry. Discerning the strengths and gifts of each congregation and what they can contribute to the mission of the whole Mission Community will also be a key task.

Mission Communities are an essential and well-established strategy in the Diocese for mission, ministry and growth. This strategy has been reviewed and recalibrated around three priorities: Growing in Prayer, Making New Disciples, and Serving the People of Devon with Joy. Our Diocesan Strategy document 'Our Vision and Strategy' (March 2016) can be found on the Diocesan website. You will need to show commitment to this. As well as local support within the parishes, there are a number of Diocesan resources to draw on to help develop mission and ministry and we hope the person appointed will make full use of them.

This is a truly exciting opportunity to help shape something new and different. There is a lot to do here, but also dedicated disciples to share the journey.

*The Ven Dr Mark Butchers
Archdeacon of Barnstaple*

2. What does 'future church' look like?

We need a forward thinking Evangelical with relevant skills and experience to help us struggle with this question!

- to get alongside us to discover our part in the Church of tomorrow
- to turn the challenge of declining clergy numbers into an opportunity for us all
- to stir up in all of us a passion for mission
- to collaborate with church family, and with existing clergy and teams to pursue the future together
- to empower people to discover and use their God-given gifts

and to

- help us grow as an enlarged community of churches with a common vision to proclaim the kingdom
- enthuse, teach and challenge us with God's word
- communicate as a team player but delegate as a team leader
- discern what God is already doing in our communities and encourage us to join in more

A key part of this will be to spend time in all parishes before guiding us in the first year formally, creatively and prayerfully to review our activities and priorities, looking at how best to use our resources, especially of people and time, within and across the new Mission Community.



3. Person Specification

We believe that what we need is a person who:

- is a strategic thinker and will help us refine our vision for our newly formed Mission Community
- has a vision to go out into the community
- enjoys working within a team being both purposeful and sensitive in the management of change
- has a collaborative leadership approach involving delegation and working with a variety of people across the Mission Community
- recognises, encourages and enables the gifts of others
- is prayerful and led by the Holy Spirit
- is a good Bible teacher
- is excited by the challenge of communicating our faith
- is enthusiastic to work with schools and families
- is sensitive to the needs of older people
- has a heart for the pastoral care of church members and the wider community
- understands the importance of good administration and communication

4. What we offer...

- Hard working congregations who are spiritually aware and have a willingness to experiment and engage with new ideas
- Enthusiastic ministry team – both lay and ordained
- Worship that is alive in all five churches in a diverse range of styles
- Prayerful church families used to seeing God at work among us
- The support of our local communities in seeing many church events be successful, even if they won't commit to the habit of worship Sunday by Sunday!

The Parishes of Heanton Punchardon, Marwood, West Down and Georgeham with Croyde

5. Introduction

Our New Mission Community will be made up of what is now the Villages Mission Community (Heanton Punchardon, Marwood and West Down) linked with the parish of Georgeham and Croyde. We are situated in beautiful North Devon, North West of Barnstaple and near the coast.

6. Worship

Worship is alive in all five churches in a diverse range of styles. Below is a sample of worship we enjoy in our churches during a typical month. Except where indicated, Common Worship is usually used.

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
St Augustine's Heanton	11.00 Holy Communion	11.00 Morning Praise	11.00 Holy Communion	8.00 (BCP) Holy Communion 11.00 Celebration in Wrafton Hall	10.30 United Holy Communion
St Michael & All Angels Marwood	9.30 All-age Worship	9.30 Holy Communion	10.00 United Worship with URC & Methodist	18.00 (BCP) Evensong	
St Calixtus West Down	9.30 Morning Praise	9.30 Morning Praise	9.30 All-age Worship	9.30 Holy Communion	
St George's Georgeham	11.00 Family Service	11.00 Morning Worship	11.00 Morning Worship	11.00 Parish Communion	Joint service with Baptists
St Mary's Croyde	9.00 (BCP) Morning Prayer	9.00 (BCP) Holy Communion	9.00 (BCP) Holy Communion		



7. Facts and figures for 2016

	Approx Population of Parish	No. on Electoral Roll	Usual Sunday attendance Over 16	Usual Sunday attendance Under 16	Baptisms	Wedding	Funerals In Church	Funerals At Crem
Heanton	2,600	64	45-50	0-2	5	1	3	2
Marwood	700	44	20	0	0	0	0	1
West Down	650	35	8-12	0	1	1	3	3
Georgeham & Croyde	1800	94	75	5	3	12	6	5

8. Ministry Team

The Villages Mission Community has the support of one SSM Curate, one Reader and two retired clergy.

The Parish of Georgeham with Croyde is supported by two readers and two retired clergy.

9. Finance

While Church finances will continue to challenge, each parish pays its Common Share in full and also raises money to maintain the buildings and give to Mission.

Copies of the annual accounts for each of the four parishes are available on request. Clergy expenses are paid in full.



10. Local Information

Heanton Village has no facilities and only one bus a day goes through and returns.

However, less than half a mile down the bottom of the hill, there are good facilities in Wrafton and Braunton. Buses run regularly (every twenty minutes) through Braunton and Wrafton to Ilfracombe and Barnstaple. Braunton has three supermarkets and a variety of other shops including a butcher, ironmonger, clothes shops, charity shops, surf shops, a cycle shop and a variety of restaurants public houses and coffee shops. There is a Post Office in Wrafton and another in Braunton. Regrettably, the last bank branch is closing this summer but there are several ATM's available. Braunton also has a health centre.

Braunton has three good primary schools and one secondary school. There is a large sixth form college (PETROC) in Barnstaple.

Barnstaple is only five miles away and has a wide range of shops, a leisure centre and a railway station giving access to Exeter and all parts of the country.

11. The Rectory

The Rectory, which is adjacent to St Augustine's Church Heanton Punchardon, was built in the 1960s. It has four bedrooms (one en-suite), bathroom, downstairs cloakroom, downstairs study, lounge, dining room and kitchen, double garage and a large garden with patio. The views from the house and garden are superb. The house and garden have been well maintained.



12. The Parishes

a) The Villages Mission Community (North Devon)

The Mission Community, linking the parishes of Heanton Punchardon, Marwood and West Down was formally established in 2010, although Heanton and Marwood have been a joint benefice since 1979 and West Down has worked with the benefice since 2008.

The Mission Community has a good record of leading church members towards leadership. In recent years through 'Wings for Worship' and 'Growing Leaders' several people have been prepared for leadership including leading worship. In addition, two members have been ordained and one is in training.

All three churches in the Mission Community have a church tower with a set of six bells that are rung regularly for church services. We also have visiting teams of bell-ringers wishing to ring in our churches. Marwood and Heanton have robed choirs which support each other for special events

i) Heanton

The Parish of Heanton Punchardon is semi-rural and has some spectacular views. It includes the village of Wrafton and the Royal Marine Base located at Chivenor. The base sits on the northern edge of the Taw/Torridge estuary with the South West Coast Path (cycle and footpath) following the old railway line alongside the length of the estuary. The Parish is 5 miles from Barnstaple, 1 mile from the large village of Braunton and close to the surfing beaches of Croyde and Saunton Sands.



The area of the parish is about 8 –10 sq miles and covers all types of housing – owned and Housing Association rented. Currently, 150 new houses are being built at Chivenor Cross (with a recent planning application for a further 50 houses). There are 3 farms in the Parish, and a little light industry (including a large pharmaceuticals factory) as well as military housing at RMB Chivenor. There is a large social mix of people who work locally as well as the military and a large number of young families and retired people. Many of the working residents have part time employment. The population is static, with the exception of RMB Chivenor, and is predominantly White British. The census of 2011 recorded a population of 2673 with an average age of 34. Currently there are approximately 3000 people living or working at RMB Chivenor

Located in the Parish are 2 public houses, 2 garages and the North Devon Athletics Track.

St Augustine's Church, Heanton Punchardon is an imposing Grade 1 listed 13th, but largely 14th century Parish Church in relatively good condition, on the hills to the north of the Taw Estuary, overlooking the Taw/Torridge estuary and Braunton Burrows. It has a tall 'Devon crown' tower set in a large, open churchyard. The church is open daily. There is a Church Hall in Wrafton and a church room adjacent to the church (Hewett Room). Monthly services are regularly held in the hall at Wrafton. Heanton Punchardon has an evangelical tradition and is a member of the Evangelical

Alliance. The church is equipped with 2 data projectors and screens as well as an effective sound system. The church hall at Wrafton also has a data projector and screen.



Heanton Punchardon church yard has 121 War Graves which are maintained by the war graves Commission. There is also a war memorial.

St Augustine's has a strong musical tradition. It has a robed, four part choir of 12 which helps to lead the music in worship. Most Sundays we have an organist but we can also use a laptop system of recorded music or CDs when there is no organist available.

About 80% of the congregation live in Braunton and over half are retired. Few of the congregation are in full time employment, most of the remainder working part time or not working.

St Augustine's enjoys good relationships with the churches in Braunton

There are 3 House Groups in Heanton Punchardon meeting weekly with approximately 30 members. Meeting regularly are also a monthly fellowship group, open to members from other churches in the Mission Community, a Lunch Club, at Wrafton Hall which caters weekly for anyone (retired/over 60s) from the local communities who wishes to attend and which is staffed by volunteers from the Mission Community; an art club and the church choir. We hold biannual Flower Festivals and host concerts and other community and fund raising events.

Wrafton Hall and the Hewett Room are available to any church organisation. Wrafton Hall can also be hired and is in extensive use throughout the week. There is a weekly Toddler group in the Church Hall. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, affiliated to the church also use the Hall.



There is one Nursing Home in Heanton, adjacent to St Augustine's Church. Services are held there, including Holy Communion, twice a month. The Ministry Team has good relationships with the Nursing Home and is regularly called upon to visit to pray with residents who are ill or approaching death. St Augustine's has a team of dedicated volunteers who provide pastoral care to the sick and elderly in the Parish. With an ageing congregation their visits and care are very much appreciated.

Heanton church supports local and overseas mission.

RMB Chivenor has a full time Forces Chaplain. There is a chapel at the base but services are not generally held there. Worshipping residents of the base attend St Augustine's or other local churches. A number of weddings and baptisms are carried out at the church for military personnel.

There are no schools within the parish but Braunton Academy and Southmead Primary school are just over the parish boundary in Braunton. Most children within Heanton Parish attend these schools. The church has a good relationship with Southmead and hosts an annual Christingle service in church.

ii) Marwood

Marwood is a relatively large rural parish of 8-10 sq miles, 3-4 miles to the north of Barnstaple. It consists of some 10 hamlets, but no single village centre. These hamlets are based on a series of 'Bartons', typical of the agricultural structure in Devon. Those living in the parish are mostly retired or work in Barnstaple, with little employment locally other than agriculture, but the proximity of Marwood to the North Devon District Hospital makes it an attractive location for medical and ancillary staff.

St Michael & All Angels Church is located in Marwood. It is a listed building dating from the 12th century but predominantly 13th /14th century. There is also a small building (probably a remnant of the parish workhouse) adjoining the church and adjacent to the entrance gate known as the Lych Gate Room. The Church Hall is a few hundred yards along the lane.

There are two chapels in the parish; the URC is in the hamlet of Muddiford and the Methodist in the hamlet of Prixford. We all share a monthly service. There is one housegroup that meets regularly. Church-run social events are well supported by members of the community who are not necessarily regular church goers. This year there has been a St George's Supper, a 'Sheep' Festival day with BBQ and activities for all the family and a Christian Aid supper and Quiz night. The annual summer holiday club which runs for a week in the summer holidays is always well supported.



There is no longer a post office or shop, but there is one public house serving good food and providing a place for the local community to meet other than the churches. There is a community primary school with over 100 children and a fairly new community hall on the school site. The Mission Community ministerial team together with the Methodist/URC minister leads a full school assembly once a week on a rota. The population suffers from a degree of rural deprivation. There is a lack of public transport, a shortage of affordable housing and a low level of wages.

The Parish Council funds a monthly newsletter 'Marwood Matters' which contains news of most parish activities

iii) St Calixtus Church, West Down

The 13th century church of St Calixtus stands in the centre of the village. It is surrounded by residential buildings, some of which are used as holiday lets during the summer months. The village has a primary school, community run shop, pub and village hall. The population is over 600 with a number of farms, people who commute to the local town, retired people and an increasing number of young families.



The congregation of West Down church is small (average 12) with the majority of retirement age. There is a church run Mums and Toddlers group (about 10 children). We run a nativity around the village (100 people) and have tried an Easter and Harvest Messy church (45 people). The school holds harvest and Christmas services in the church and a member of the Mission Community ministry team leads a school assembly once a month.

West Down pays its full common share and has undertaken repair work on the tower recently with a few stages still to complete and some roof repairs due to be done in 2018. We have a small, recently refurbished church room which is used by Mums and Toddlers, a weekly Bible study group and is hired occasionally.

Despite monthly family services with drama and modern music we have found it difficult to encourage families to worship regularly in church. For six years we ran Messy church every month (15 children) but this has recently stopped as new leaders are needed. We hope to restart this in September.

b) Georgeham and Croyde

Our parish is made up of villages, hamlets and farms. Our two churches have close links with Croyde Baptist Church, Georgeham C of E (Controlled) Primary School, Christian Surfers UK (founded by members of Croyde Baptist Church) as well as St George's House, a Christian outdoor centre next to and based in the former Rectory for St George's.

A high percentage of worshippers live in the parish, many playing an active part in services and activities. The area depends significantly on tourism with a number of camp sites, holiday parks, second homes and holiday lets. We treasure many regular visitors and host significant numbers of casual visitors, sharing the joy and presence of God with them over the lengthening tourist season. We're not just a second home area but a second home church for some of the visiting worshippers.



We are bible-centred, praying and seeking for growth in discipleship and in the number of disciples. As part of this, we provide both traditional and contemporary worship with equal love and care.

The Parish church of St George in Georgeham, dating back to the 13th Century, can hold up to 240 people. In the centre of the village it's used and valued for a variety of community events in addition to regular worship and is open daily. Worship is contemporary with a music group leading

for three Sundays out of four. Leadership is collaborative. The Preaching and Leading team consider themes prayerfully to promote discipleship and mission. On occasion, themes are linked to study areas for the four housegroups attended by approximately a quarter of regular worshippers. About three quarters of our church family are retired. Our bells are normally rung twice weekly.

The church use is varied. It has been and is used for General Election hustings as well as fund raising events like the ever popular teddy bear parachute jumps from the tower. As well as exhibitions and concerts, these sometimes coincide with fundraising to assist with our church roof appeal which is subject to a lottery grant application at present. However, we also raise funds and awareness for other matters such as the local group planning to bring a Syrian refugee family to the village and other charity needs like Shelterbox.



Apart from the roof, the building is generally in good condition having been updated to provide open spaces in the chancel and rear. There is a small kitchen and two toilets. Recently the Parish Council have taken over the upkeep of the attractive Churchyard which is now closed for burials.



Near the centre of bustling Croyde famous for its surfing culture and the annual music festival Oceanfest, stands **the Mission church of St Mary Magdalene** which was built in 1875. Here there are services on 3 out of 4 Sundays with a more traditional flavour attracting up to 20 worshippers. It's also used for weekly prayer meetings, PCC meetings, special healing services and occasionally for summer exhibitions. The flexible space contains the parish office and resources. It is well maintained and in good condition with a small kitchen and toilet. There is no church land around the building.

Croyde Baptist Church, currently with approx 40 adult members, enjoys a primary focus on a teaching ministry with a strong family emphasis and outreach to local families. Pastor Tim Clarke-Wood is supported by a leadership team and an active membership. Members of the Baptist Church founded Christian Surfers UK some years ago. The building comprises an open plan worship area, which can be cleared to use as a multi-purpose space. There is a kitchen and separate meeting rooms.

There is a long tradition of co-operation and fellowship between the Anglican and Baptist communities to which both congregations are committed. Regular joint services and activities are held which have included 'Cross for Croyde' open air services, with family beach activities including the making of Easter Gardens, ending with a cross being carried and placed to overlook Croyde beach for the Easter period. We have held joint Harvest events both inside and at a local farm. The 'Open the Book' team at Georgeham School is ecumenical and much enjoyed by pupils. The Nativity processions around Georgeham ending with the placing of cut outs painted by families into the stable tableau on the green are also joint events. Joint Alpha courses have been held and Mike and Tim have been meeting regularly for prayer, to plan and for mutual support.

In addition to Mike, church members serve as Georgeham Primary School Governors. The school is a C of E school and has strong links with the church and our building is used for some assemblies and special events and the school are encouraged to participate in some services including Christingle, Education Sunday, and our special events and services.



Equipping, Growth and Mission has been prayed over and sought for many years. In the last 20 years, 8 people have gone forward for ordination from the parish. God has been good to us and churches elsewhere, but as a result of equipping some gaps and challenges have resulted! Over 10% of our income is used to support a range of mission elsewhere. Where possible representatives visit to help us pray purposefully. The local food bank and 'one off' appeals are well supported by our committed church family.

The PCC recently looked at how we see our joys and challenges as below:

JOYS

- + An open minded congregation who are never afraid to try something new
- + Forward thinking worship and preaching teams contributing to encouraging worship
- + Strong, mutually supportive Church family well led by Mike in spite of family pressures
- + Effective PCC discussions to explore our response to challenges
- + Regular prayers and answers to prayer
- + Excitement from joint services with Croyde Baptist Church and community initiatives
- + Encouragement from both 'regular' and occasional holiday visitors
- + Rewarding links with School and St George's Housegroups
- + More informed links with Mission Giving Partners

CHALLENGES

- Maintaining our historic buildings without weakening our central mission purpose or depleting our small reserves; maybe the diocese needs to provide more support for maintenance of buildings?
- Making a greater impact on families and children of our villages
- Adjusting to Deanery re-organisation/reduced staffing both this year and in the longer term.

We look at the change in parish organisation as an opportunity for another person to work closely with Mike to build Georgeham and Croyde into the new Mission Community and prepare us for the future.

13. Useful Websites and Contacts

Heanton <http://www.heantonparish.org.uk>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StAugustines-Church-Heanton-Punchardon-558497887627135/>

Marwood Village <https://www.marwoodmatters.com>

West Down Village <http://www.westdown.org.uk>

Georgeham with Croyde www.churchincommunity.org

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/St-Georges-Church-Georgeham-121070918083619/>

For more information please contact:

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