



Axe
Valley
Mission
Community

Rector (Full-time Incumbent)

Axe Valley Mission Community

January 2024

DIOCESE
OF EXETER
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
IN DEVON



pray



grow



serve
with joy



Welcome

Welcome to the Axe Valley Mission Community!

We are praying for a new Team Rector to join us in serving and reaching out joyfully to those around us at a crucial time in the life of the Mission Community. The AVMC is made up of eight welcoming churches across seven parishes including town, coastal and small rural communities. We love where we live and we love our communities. Two previous groupings of parishes joined in 2020 and we want to continue to grow together as we support each other in what God calls us to be and do. There has been a rapid growth in housing in Axminster in recent years bringing great new opportunities for ministry and outreach in the town and surrounding areas. Growth in the church in Axminster itself will be important for all the churches of the MC.

Our parishes cover over 24 square miles. The churches are: St Mary the Virgin Axminster, Holy Cross Woodbury Lane, Axminster, St Peter and St Paul Uplyme, St Michael's Axmouth, All Saints in All Saints Village, St Andrew's Chardstock, St John Baptist Membury, and St Mary the Virgin Combpyne and Rousdon.

Each church has its own character with a variety of services styles and traditions, from formal to informal. There are several small groups led by lay people with clergy input as required. It was a real blessing to be able to study together as a team of churches, the Living in Love and Faith course. Over the five sessions there was good discussion and listening to each other's views. The ministry team also did the course together, as did some home groups. The follow-up session 'Living in Love and Faith Conversations' was well-attended. This has assisted us in being more open and honest with each other about our views and the clergy team looks forward to being able to offer the 'Prayers of Love and Faith' as requested.



CONTENTS

4	Archdeacon's Foreword
5	Our Vision
6	What We Offer
7	Leadership & Ministry Team
8	Priorities & Person Specification
9	The Rectory
10	Our Churches & Communities
11	Axmouth
12	Uplyme
13	All Saints
14	Holy Cross
15	Chardstock
16	Membury
17	Combyne & Rousdon
18	Axminster & The Minster Church
19	Sunday Worship
20	Facts and Figures

“Every parish is unique and special, but churches thrive when they work in partnership with each other in Mission Communities.”

Rt Revd Robert Atwell
Bishop of Exeter

Contact Details

The Venerable Andrew Beane
Archdeacon of Exeter



ade@exeter.anglican.org



07898932654



01392 425577



The Archdeacon of Exeter

ARCHDEACON'S FOREWORD

In this Profile, you will find something of the vision and opportunities of this supportive and developing mixed market town and rural Mission Community.

The Axe Valley Mission Community presents to the right person amazing opportunities in developing mission and ministry across a significant East Devon market town and the more rural communities which surround it. The profile offers a snapshot of the parishes as they seek to work more closely together, but perhaps offer more of a statement of wants rather than needs. The Mission Community needs strategic, creative and truly collaborative leadership. It needs someone with energy, drive, passion and a deep and infectious faith rooted in the broadest expressions of the Anglican tradition. There is enormous potential for the Minster Church to grow and develop its links with the community and the local schools.

I truly believe these are exciting places to be called to and a people ready and open for change.

I commend this Profile and the communities to prayer and study as you seek to discern your next step in ministry.

Our Diocesan Vision

We seek to be people who together are:

Growing in Prayer

Prayer is conversation with God and is part of a healthy Christian life. Prayer is a life-giving activity that opens up deep places within us to God's transforming grace.

Making new disciples

As the Christian story is less and less known, we must

find new ways of telling the story, of explaining the faith and giving a reason for the hope that is in us.

Serving the people of Devon with joy

As followers of Jesus Christ we want to make a difference in the world and make God's love and justice known. 'Next Steps' is part of our Diocese of Exeter vision to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy. We are particularly committed to making new disciples among children and families, young people aged 16 to 25, people over 60, and those on the fringes of church life.

Further information regarding our Diocesan Vision can be found in our Next Steps document at www.exeter.anglican.org/who-we-are/vision-strategy

Deanery & Diocese

The Axe Valley Mission Community is part of the Archdeaconry of Exeter and under the care of the Bishop of Crediton (The Rt Rev'd Jackie Searle). The Mission Community is in the Honiton Deanery.

We aim to be a diverse and truly representative diocese, and we particularly welcome applications from women and from people of UK Minority Ethnic/Global Majority heritage. Devon is a beautiful place to call home and we believe the Diocese of Exeter is a great community to be a part of.

You are warmly invited to contact me directly if you would like a confidential conversation about the post.

Andrew Beane

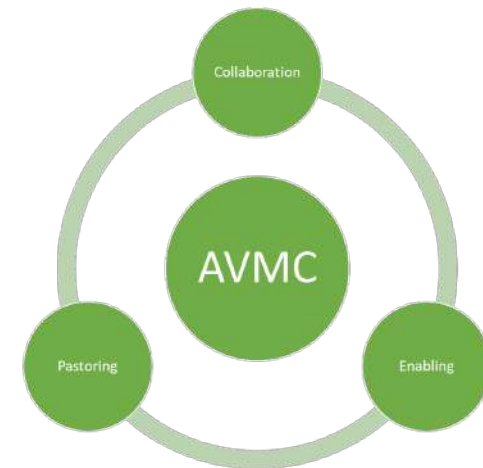
The Ven Andrew Beane



Our Vision

The AVMC is committed to the Exeter Diocesan priorities of:
Growing in prayer
Making new disciples
Serving the people of Devon with joy

In addition, the AVMC has produced an up to date and comprehensive Mission Action Plan which focuses on '*collaboration, enabling and pastoring*'.



We aim to be outward facing and inwardly nurturing in what we do. The churches within the AVMC are all different and each church retains its own identity but we recognise working as a team is vitally important.

Thomas Whitty began making Axminster method carpets in 1755. These original Axminster Carpets™ could be found in Chatsworth House and Brighton Pavilion as well as being bought by King George III and Queen Charlotte, who visited the factory.

182 years later, a carpet manufacturer called Harry Dutfield was on a train where he met a vicar from the West Country who told him that carpets had not been made in Axminster for a while due to a disastrous fire that had destroyed the factory. The germ of an idea was born and in 1937 the decision was taken to re-launch carpet manufacturing in the town of Axminster. Apparently there was a time when bells of the Minster church were rung each time a carpet was completed!



What we offer

- Being part of a supportive and collaborative team
- The ministry team is the new Rector, the Team Vicar, 4 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM's) and several trained lay leaders.
- The team is supported by several retired clergy with PTO.
- A part time administrator based in the church office adjacent to the Rectory
- Good working relationships with local schools including three church schools – Chardstock, All Saints and Uplyme
- Good working relationships with other religious denominations in the area
- Team of trained Anna Friends and an Anna Chaplain.
- An established and growing team of lay worship leaders
- Understanding around a holistic approach to clergy wellbeing, including regular time off, annual leave and an annual retreat.
- Full payment of expenses
- The church wardens from all the churches are committed to the Axe Valley Mission Community structure and looking forward to working with the new Team Rector and the current Team Vicar to move the Christian Mission forward in this lovely part of east Devon.

The churches within the AVMC are all different and each church retains its own identity but we recognise the strength that comes from working together as a Mission Community.



I'm Cate Edmonds I am focal minister for Holy Cross. I have enjoyed being part of the Axe Valley team since 2017 and combine this with being a Canon at Exeter Cathedral



I'm Ann Gray, an LLM, and my responsibilities include leading services, preaching and leading intercessions. From January I will be commissioned as an Anna friend.



I'm Lesley Gubbins, an LLM. I was licensed as a Reader in Coventry diocese in 2011, serving in a group of 7 rural parishes. In 2018 I transferred my licence to Exeter diocese, serving in Axmouth, shortly before the Axe Valley Mission Community was formed. I had PTO from 2019 and was relicensed in 2023. All my experience has been in rural ministry, working in mixed teams of lay and clergy which is always fresh and stimulating.



I'm Roger Grose, LLM
Following retirement, I continued my association with the Uplyme Church Ministry Team, completing my Reader training in 2013. I have been a church organist for many decades and also enjoy choral singing and brass banding in my spare time.



I'm Su Clark and am an LLM for the Mission Community



Leadership & Ministry Team

In a Mission Community of eight churches, it is vital that leadership and ministry are shared. The licence of the current Team Vicar gives delegated pastoral responsibility for the parishes of Uplyme and Axmouth, with the previous Team Rector having exercised responsibility for the other churches. Additionally, a form of focal ministry was put in place in late 2021 to share responsibility more widely amongst the ministry team. Due to recent changes in staffing, this focal ministry pattern is now only partially operational and needs to be reviewed. At this time of change and new opportunities, we look forward to working with the new Team Rector to discern and implement the best model for ministry and oversight for the whole Mission Community.



I'm Nicky Davies and I've been Team Vicar in AVMC for three years. I am licensed to all our churches, but have oversight of Uplyme and Axmouth Churches, with a focus on work with youth, children and families, which includes schools and youth clubs. I was part of an ecumenical team which took nine teenagers to Kenya last summer to work with the Red Tribe charity, who serve the Maasai people in a remote region. We also took over 20 younger teenagers on a surf weekend in the Autumn.



Priorities & Person Specification

- To be out in the community, building on existing relationships and seeking new opportunities for outreach and making new disciples.
- To be a collaborative team leader of the full ministry team as we develop and implement the AVMC vision
- To review and reshape the structure of pastoral responsibility and oversight in the Mission Community
- To have a particular focus on renewing the worshipping life and community outreach of the Minster
- To be liturgically creative and work with the whole team to develop different styles of service and worship alongside more traditional forms
- To work with the whole team to oversee pastoral care across the AVMC

The Rector must be able to demonstrate that they are:

- An inclusive, creative and innovative team player who can demonstrate leadership and collaboration within a team
- An energetic person with the ability to demonstrate initiative and drive projects to completion
- A good communicator in both the spoken and written word and with comprehensive IT skills including social media
- An approachable, sociable and welcoming person with a sense of humour who has a genuine interest in all people
- Competent and skilled in conducting worship across a variety of traditions.

and should have:

- Experience of multi parish ministry with a proven track record of transformation and church growth in a town setting.
- A full driving licence, as there is limited public transport in some areas of the AVMC



Front Elevation



Rear Elevation

THE RECTORY

The Rectory is located adjacent to The Minster in Axminster town centre. The property is spacious and benefits from gas central heating, wood burner, double glazing and a superb garden.

It comprises a study, large reception room, dining room, kitchen, utility and downstairs cloakroom. There are four good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom upstairs. There is a garage with driveway that can accommodate three cars.

The post holder will live in a beautiful part of the country with the benefit of both the World Heritage Coastline and the rolling hills and farmlands of the inner part of the Mission Community.

There is a regular hourly train service to London and Exeter from Axminster and there is an active bus service linking the major towns in the area. There are several highly rated schools and this is a great part of the country to bring up a family.



Our Churches & Communities

The eight churches of the Mission Community are varied and each has its own individual identity. On the following pages there is a snapshot from each church which aims to give an overview but not an exhaustive profile. Any applicant selected for interview will have the chance to visit all the churches and meet with members of the individual PCCs who can provide a fuller account of the activities, as well as the opportunities and challenges of each Parish.

Some of the churches have special links with other countries or other charitable activities. In all cases the churches are outward focused and working with their local communities. There is no significance to the order in which the profiles of the churches are laid out.

[Communication across the AVMC](#)

Currently there are three websites containing information on the AVMC churches and this is an area where further work is needed to align website activity to the new structure. The current sites are:

<https://www.axevmc.com>

<https://www.axmouthcommunity.org>

<https://www.uplymechurch.org.uk>

In addition, there is a weekly AVMC Pews News and various Parish Magazines. Wherever possible electronic communication is used, but we have to recognise that this is not appropriate for all.



Axmouth

Axmouth is a small village (population approx. 500) located on the River Axe with its wealth of birds and other wildlife. It has a harbour with Yacht Club at the mouth of the river, about a mile from the centre of the village. There are two pubs, a village hall adjacent to the Church, and a seasonal caravan site.

Our Grade 1 listed Church is located close to the river. It is essentially Norman, with attractive stained-glass windows and important medieval wall paintings.

We are a friendly, outward-looking Church, very connected to the community, with an active Friends organisation. Helpers are always on hand, with rotas for Flower arrangers, Church cleaning etc

On Sundays we alternate between Morning Worship and Holy Communion, with good support from our Lay Team. Our regular congregation is between 25 and 30, considerably enhanced on Festivals and special services. Our Christmas Tree Festival, organised by the Friends, attracts people from far and wide.

Come and meet Jane and Mary, the donkeys who regularly lead our Palm Sunday procession through the village.

We are greatly looking forward to the arrival of a new Rector, to work closely with us and our Team Vicar Nicky.





Uplyme

We are a lively, all-age church family meeting in a beautiful ancient building that has modern facilities. We are a fairtrade and eco church.

Church Building

Using our gallery we are able to seat 200 people and we have a large outward looking congregation. The church is open during the daytime and there is disabled access. Our six church bells call us to worship every Sunday morning.

Parish and Village

Uplyme parish is a semi-rural parish with a population of 1700 and has a pub, garage with general store and post office, primary school, pre-school and village hall.

Primary School

The highly successful Mrs Ethelstons CofE primary school is situated next door to the church and has 190 pupils. The school is very much part of church life on most days for assemblies/worship/Open the Book and teaching.

Worship

We offer a variety of worship and aim to include all. Services in the mornings are contemporary using on-screen liturgy, evening services vary using a seasonal worship booklet and is in a more traditional style. With the Bishop's approval, a large lay team provides worship and ministry for non-communion worship.

A Festival Choir sing once a month at choral evensong and at festivals. The Electoral Roll stands at 82.

Youth

There is a 'Friday Night Fun' for Year 6 and above. Saturday Football and Shining Stars Toddler Group.

Activities

The Church is used for Concerts, Fayres, Knit & Chatter, Prayer, Meditation, Courses, Quizzes, Friday Night Fun, Bell Ringing, Lunches, Gospel Singers and many other occasions.

Charities

We support St Petroc's for the Homeless in Exeter, The Busoga Trust for clean water and Ekisa Special Needs School in Uganda.



All Saints

We are a small but beautifully formed and lively parish. There is a strong and active community spirit, typified by the annual summer show, Christmas concert and pantomime.

The church, church school and village hall are located together, creating a strong community hub.

The church is Victorian, with modern glass doors creating a bright, welcoming atmosphere.

WORSHIP AND THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

We are blessed to have an active 'Friends' group, raising funds for the upkeep of the church.

We offer a variety of services, which include Holy Communion, Morning Prayer, and a lay led family service, Together@10. We are committed to offer a warm, welcoming and peaceful place to everyone.

MISSION

Popular monthly 'village breakfast' in the village hall.

Monthly parish newsletter, produced by the church for the community, and distributed free of charge to every household.

Open The Book team, who visit All Saints, Chardstock and Membury schools each month.

FINANCES

The PCC is thankfully able to meet all its financial commitments.





Holy Cross

Holy Cross is home to an active and close church family, who meet to worship in our delightful church every Sunday.

Holy Cross was built by Lady Tulloch in 1883 for her estate workers. It is situated on the southern edge of Axminster and has a gathered congregation from the surrounding areas.

We have a particular aim to support those who are no longer able to get to church. A member of our congregation leads the AVMC home communion group and has recently completed the training to become an Anna Chaplain. We have an agreed Mission Action plan going forward.

We have our own Committee who are responsible for the activities and fabric of the building. We are represented on the Axminster PCC and contribute proportionally to the Axminster Common Fund. We continue to meet all our financial obligations.

We have an electoral role of 31, and the current average attendance at the Sunday service is 23. Our major worship focus is a weekly Holy Communion service, but during the interregnum we introduced an occasional lay-led service. We have an active “Holy Cross Headlines” email group which provides up to date information to all our congregation and other supporters. We have an open, welcoming environment and a committed excellent organist.

Woodbury Community Hall is close to Holy Cross, and we have good relationships enabling us to use their facilities to celebrate key festivals and hold congregational events.

Chardstock

Our church, St Andrew's, Chardstock, has a regular, committed congregation of around 15 worshippers, with two Holy Communion services and one BCP evensong per month. With the support of the church school, we are also hoping to reinstate the monthly family service, to broaden the community's involvement in the church, and the congregation's age range.

St Andrew's itself is a lovely Victorian church at the heart of this rural parish of 800 residents. Open daily to visitors, it has a hard-working PCC (latest achievement: impending fitting of a brand new loo.)

In addition to a well-attended annual fundraising fayre, the church is host to popular monthly coffee mornings, a highly successful second-hand book stall, musical events and, at Christmas, a pop-up pub with carol singing.

Supported too by a Friends of St Andrew's Committee, dedicated bell-ringers, flower arrangers and a churchyard maintenance team, our much loved church plays a valuable role at the centre of this beautiful village.



Membury

Here at Membury we enjoy three services a month, two of which are Holy Communion and the other is Morning Worship with either an organist or small band. Services with the band are followed by refreshments.

The church enjoys hosting and joining in with many events throughout the year, including our annual concert, the Oak Apple Day and an amazing Harvest Festival lunch. Our other village events are coordinated by local groups, particularly the Membury Merry-makers.

Our wonderful team of flower arrangers enjoy decorating the church for special services and occasions and our bellringing team ring for us twice a month. (Mention community choir as suggested by PA? MC is checking..)

Regular Sunday service attendance is 14 (Electoral Role 29) Our carol services and Easter services are very popular and well attended.

The village has a Café on Fridays in the village hall, and twice a year the church has a 'take over day' where we run the café and all the proceeds come to the church.

There is a good relationship with the primary school next door and the church holds services for them as requested. The school seasonally decorate the church display boards beautifully and make great use of the churchyard for Forest School.

Our PCC consists of 10 members of which three are local farmers, one of whom is our churchwarden.

The church embraced the Parish Giving Scheme in 2019 and currently there are 14 regular contributors. The Parish Share is paid in full. A Fabric Fund takes care of all fabric issues and the building is in good condition. St John Baptist is a Grade 1 listed building, lying in the centre of the village.



Combpyne and Rousdon

The church of St Mary the Virgin has provided the local community of Combpyne and Rousdon with an attractive place of worship since the 13th century. To this day it provides a welcoming space for the local community and visitors to enjoy as well as monthly Holy Communion and Morning Worship services.

This is a farming community with a population of approximately 300. We have a village hall and social club with skittle alley (The Peek Hall), two garages, a coffee shop/boutique, hotel and bed and breakfast hospitality as well as other holiday accommodation.

Church acoustics are very good which makes for a great venue for concerts. Annual fundraising 'skittles and pasties' evenings take place in the Peek Hall.

Like many smaller parishes, finance is a concern and the use of reserves has been necessary for a number of years. However, annual donations are made to charities – both home and overseas – and, on occasion, response is made to DEC appeals.



Axminster & The Minster Church

Set in the very heart of our market town The Minster is a natural focus for many civic events and special services and is well used by the community. We welcome a variety of groups to use the facilities including an annual photographic exhibition, flower display and demonstrations as well as more recently, a book signing talk by Ann Cleeves (in association with our local Archway bookshop) which was attended by over 150 people. We also host a wonderful Christmas Tree festival where local businesses and groups can display their bespoke trees for all to enjoy.

We actively support events in the town such as The Raising of the Glove, which celebrates Axminster's medieval charter, and Light Up Axminster, which signals the beginning of Christmas in the town. During the Summer months, in collaboration with the local Community Waffle House, we have picnic tables on the Minster Green for the whole community and visitors to our town to make use of, while enjoying the surroundings. Work to reveal medieval wall paintings has recently been completed and is providing much interest.

Our local primary school comes to visit the church once per term and our senior school use the church to hold their Christmas carol concert. The Minster has an impressive bell tower with 10 bells which can be heard ringing beautifully every Monday evening for bell ringing practice. There is a re-ordering project on-going to modernise and improve the toilets and kitchen.

With its amazing acoustics, The Minster is a wonderful venue for music. We have a strong musical tradition in the church's worship supported by two first-class organists. Every year the Minster hosts a season of lunchtime concerts, once a week on market day from May right through to the end of October.

We have 12 members on our PCC and a flourishing home group bible study group that we would like to build on. We have a weekly communion service on a Tuesday with a congregation largely different to that on Sundays. From Our church rooms building with kitchen is adjacent to the Minster and the Minster green.



Sunday Worship

	Minster	Holy Cross	Combpyne	Chardstock	All Saints	Membury	Axmouth	Uplyme
Week 1	10.30am HC	9.30am MW	10am HC		11am MW	11am HC	10am MW	10am HC 6pm Healing & Wholeness/ Evening Worship/ Evensong
Week 2	8am HC 10.30am MW	9.30am HC		10am HC	11am HC		10am HC	10am MW
Week 3	10.30am HC	9.30am HC	10am MW	6pm Even-song	10am Together @ 10	11am HC	10am MW	10am Together @ 10 6pm HC
Week 4	10.30am HC	9.30am HC		10am HC	11am HC	11am MW	10am HC	10am MW

Facts and Figures

PARISH FIGURES:	Axminster	Axmouth	All Saints	Chardstock	Combpayne	Membury	Uplyme
A. Number of churches in the parish	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
B. Population of the parish	6089	690	498	828	300	500	1700
C. Current number on electoral roll	61 31	36	23	41	10	29	82
D. Current number of participants	28 24	28	9	18	6	14	51
E. Usual Sunday attendance over 16	30 24	28	10	11	8	14	45
F. Usual Sunday attendance under 16	3 0	0	2	0	0	0	6
2. SPECIAL SERVICES IN THE LAST YEAR							
A. Numbers of baptisms	10 0	1	0	2	0	1	7
B. Numbers of confirmation candidates	0		0	0	0	0	0
C. Numbers of weddings	0 0	4	1	3	0	0	1
D. Numbers of funerals in church	15 0	4	0	5	0	3	5
E. Numbers of funerals in crematoria	10 0	1	0	0	0	0	3
3. PARISH INSTITUTIONS							
A. Schools in the parish	2 Community 1 RC Church	N/A	All Saints C of E primary	St Andrews C of E Primary	N/A	Membury Primary Academy	Mrs Ethelston's School, C of E
B. Number of residential/nursing homes	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
C. Names of hospital(s) in the parish	Axminster	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. PARISH FINANCE							
A. How much Common Fund is requested from	£39k	17226	6409	9946	£3090	£7356 (2024)	£52638
B. Is the parish up to date with CF payments in	Yes	Yes	Yes	no	Yes	Yes	Yes
C. Percentage of the CF request paid last year?	100%	100%	100%	60%	100%	100%	100%
D. If there is a capital project in hand, what is the projected cost?	£250k -			£11500. New toilet	£10000+	£25000 proposed Solar Installation	None
5. PEOPLE							
A. Number of clergy active in the MC.	1X Stipendiary, 1 X SSM, 5 x PTO						
B. Number of LLMs/other licensed lay workers	4 x Licensed Lay Ministers (Lay Readers)						
C. Other staff employed in the MC	Mission Community Administrator						
6. MISSION							
A. Does the MC run a discipleship course?	No						
B. Does the MC have a Mission Action	Yes. October 2023						



Collaboration
Enabling
Pastoring

