

Introduction of Focal Ministry Across the Axe Valley Mission Community



Axe
Valley
Mission
Community

AVMC is blessed with a valued and experienced Ministry Team of 5 clergy and 5 Readers, supported by able and talented clergy with Permission to Officiate (PtO) and individuals with outstanding lay leadership experience and abilities.

Working with the Archdeacon of Exeter, and at the request of the Diocese we have been considering an approach to ministry across our eight churches which will provide successful and personal links to church and community.

We propose that **each church will have a 'focal minister'** who will develop a particular link and relationship with that church team and community. We look forward to formally implementing this system from Advent Sunday, 28 November 2021.

'Focal Ministry' is perhaps a new term for an approach which has been around for a good while since the number of churches grouped together has been increasing. It has been adopted by the Diocese of Sheffield as fundamental to their diocesan structure: it has been in place on a smaller scale in other areas of the country, and not just for rural ministry.

The Focal Ministers for each church and community will be:

All Saints	Rev'd Tracey Voysey, Tony Nixon,
Axmouth	Rev'd Nicky Davies, Hilary Harron, Lesley Gubbins
The Minster	Rev'd Clive Sedgewick, Rev'd Shuna George, Su Clark
Chardstock	Rev'd Clive Sedgewick,
Combpyne	Rev'd Nicky Davies, Hilary Harron, Lesley Gubbins
Holy Cross	Rev'd Cate Edmonds
Membury	Rev'd Clive Sedgewick, Tony Nixon
Uplyme	Rev'd Nicky Davies, Roger Grose

Lead ministers will seek to build stronger relationships in these places and to :

- **be the first point of call** for the Churchwardens and PCC in dealing with the running of the church.
- **be present at key festivals and events** in the life of the church and wider community where possible.
- **be a point of contact for pastoral issues** within the church and wider community.
- **be the link and initial point of contact for the Mission Community Administrator** in responding to Life Events in that community.
- **be available** and spend time in the church and community
- **encourage the ministry of all**
- **hold that church and community in prayer** and respond prayerfully to individuals, groups and community

We will of course continue to be grateful for the support and continuing ministry of our retired PtO Clergy and lay leaders and we hope they will work closely with the 'Focal Ministers' to maintain the effectiveness of services and ministry in all of our churches.

We intend that this 'focal' approach will evolve to enhance the work and experience of all within the Axe Valley Mission Community.