

The Leadon Vale



St Mary's Donnington



St Anne's Oxenhall



St Mary's Upleadon



St Bartholomew's Redmarley



St John's, Preston



St Mary's Bromesberrow



St Mary's Dymock



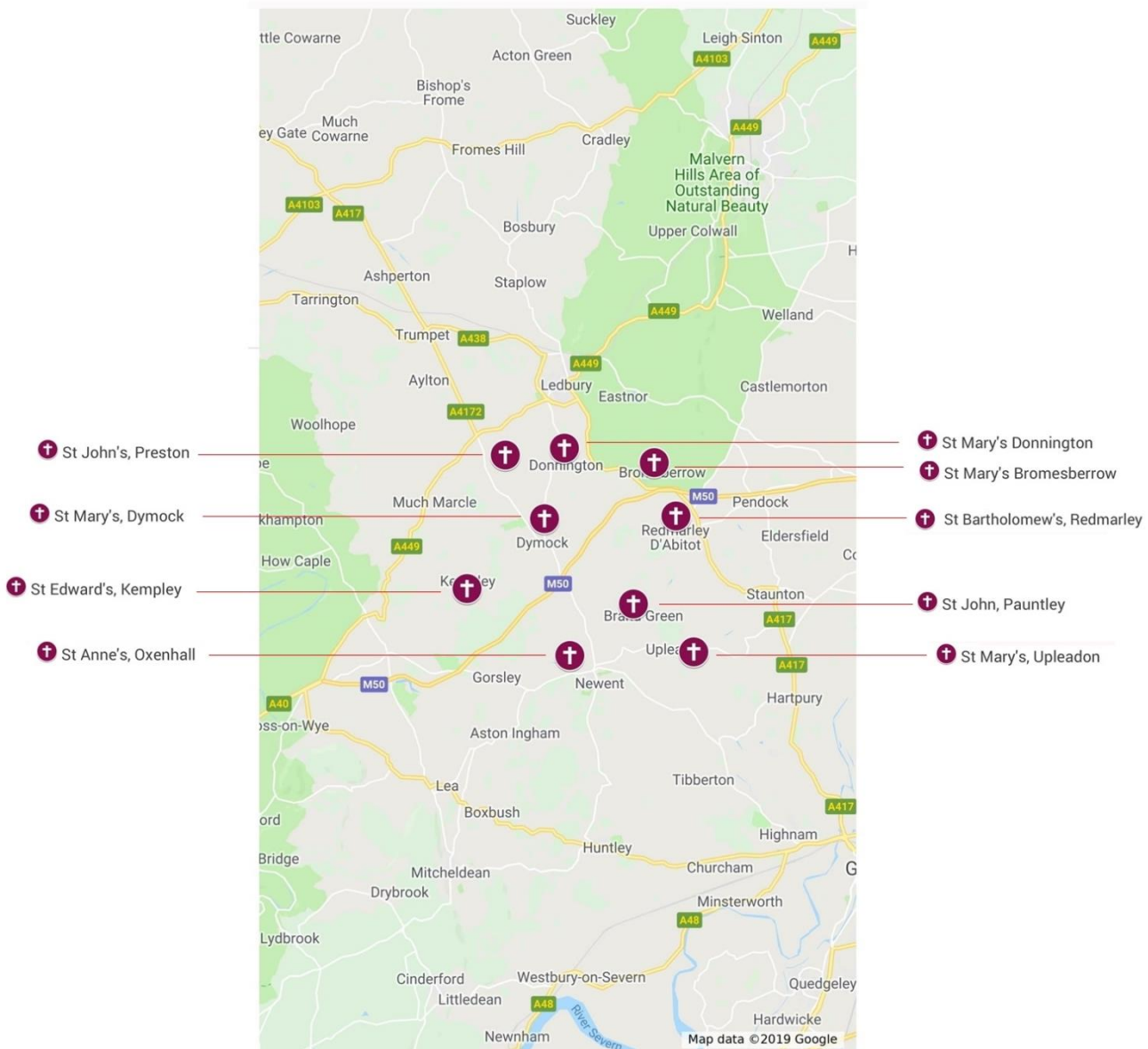
St John's Pauntley



St Edward's Kempley

Benefice Profile

Where we are



For more information on Google Maps click [this link](#)

Priest-in-Charge

Benefice of the Leadon Vale



We are delighted that you are interested in reading our benefice profile.

The nine parishes which make up the Leadon Vale Benefice are situated in the beautiful and peaceful countryside of the north west part of the county, bordering the counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The area is famed for its wild daffodils found within the golden triangle, and many interesting historical features.

In common with many rural communities, the number of people engaging directly with agriculture has diminished. The area has become popular for retirees and commuters together with a substantial number of long-term residents.

The communities here are well placed to access the larger towns and cities of the region. The M50 (J2) is within a few miles and this gives easy access to the M5. Trains run regularly from Ledbury railway station with services to London, Birmingham and Hereford.



**Working together as the Body of Christ to spread the
Good News of Jesus.**

We have had a collaborative ministry team of lay and ordained members for over 30 years and the recent vacancy has encouraged us to look afresh at the way ahead. The Benefice has therefore been working since August 2018 with the Senior Interim Minister of the diocese. We are now confident that we have a clear sense of direction and are coming together to develop unity of mission and purpose. This had led us to seek prayerfully a priest-in-charge who feels called to work with us and continue to lead us closer to God and to one another in mission.

We have a **basic pattern of services**, last updated in May.

Our two largest parishes each have a regular weekly service, with organ and robed choir. The other seven have two services per month, one is a service of Holy Communion and the other lay led. During the vacancy we have had a monthly Benefice service and this has helped us develop the sense of belonging in the Benefice and encouraged our fellowship. Our churches use Common Worship with printed booklets specific to each season of the year.

BCP is also used. We provide a variety of Holy Communion, Evensong, All-Age Worship and Morning Prayer services.

We have recently started a training course for people who would like to join with others in reading the lessons and leading Intercessions in our services. In June we will be training about 10 new people to be commissioned Lay Worship leaders.

“We recognise that this may need to be reviewed by the new Priest in Charge with the Ministry Team and churchwardens”.

There is a **Home Group** in Dymock which meets regularly. A previous group meeting in Redmarley came to a natural end but a new group is being formed shortly. Additionally dedicated groups are run during the seasons of Lent and Advent.

A **Mothers Union** group meets each month in Redmarley.



Visit



Christmas party

We are involved in offering **pastoral care** with communion in a local care home and also to housebound parishioners. The Sacrament is reserved at Redmarley.

It is encouraging to see the very real mutual care and support in the communities of the benefice.

Where possible **Baptisms** take place within a service and one of our Readers takes the initiative in preparing families who wish to bring their children to baptism.

We have a regular stream of couples who wish to marry in our churches. We also have a number of funerals, many being followed by interment in one of the churchyards.



All these are opportunities to share the good news of Jesus sensitively

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

“We want a vicar who comes to see us.” Quote from a child in Pauntley School.

In the Leadon Vale Benefice, we have four Church Schools *and these are central to mission*. We are currently working with the neighbouring Highnam Benefice to appoint a Children and Families Worker, which will help the church to develop further links with the schools. The support of the diocese and grant making bodies has been essential and encouraging. We are fully committed to this appointment and the development of the project.

Currently we lead regular Collective Worship in all of the schools and there are numerous church-based activities presented. In Dymock the ‘Open the Book’ team have been delivering the programme successfully for some time and the possibility of another team to work in Pauntley school is being explored. Also in Ann Cam School, Dymock, the church is working closely with Western Way Chapel, an independent church in the village.



A weekly after school Christian club has been in existence for many years in both Dymock and Redmarley together with activities in Redmarley during the school holidays



We are keen to explore new ways of developing these partnerships with, and among the schools of the benefice.

SAFEGUARDING

We are firmly committed to the **Safeguarding** of our children, young people and vulnerable adults and to the processes of safer recruitment.

We are developing a strong **Benefice Council** to lead on mission, worship and administration. This is key to setting strategy in the Benefice; Two lay representatives from each parish, a lay reader and one headteacher sit on the council, with the Priest-in-Charge as chair. Each church PCC takes responsibility for the buildings and finance of their parish, and these are lay led.

FINANCE

We are pleased to report that we have paid our **parish share allocation** in full for 2018 and we are on course for 2019. Recently we have been holding quarterly meetings for the treasurers to develop ways of collaborative working with a common vision. The Benefice Council is working towards more consistency in presenting accounts and encouraging more standing orders. We are promoting the Parish Giving Scheme to help further with budgeting and financial planning.

There are two parish magazines. Weekly pew sheets are produced by a member of the ministry team.

We have a Benefice office in St Mary's Church in Dymock and this is run by volunteers on two mornings in the week. We are aware of the challenge to develop our administration and communication, especially with regard to websites and email communication. There are challenges that come from the fact that a number of people are not connected electronically and are reliant on paper and word of mouth. Some churches have websites and access to social media.

"We are aware that the greatest resource (after the Holy Spirit) is the people in our parishes, and we are looking to release people to follow their passions".

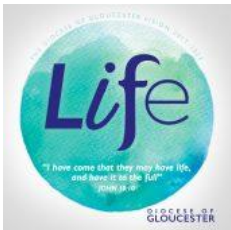
God has blessed us with a number of retired priests and Readers in our Benefice. Additionally, we have a commissioned lay minister. We are grateful for their humble and committed ministry.

MINISTRY TEAM

Our Ministry Team comprises of the Incumbent, Retired Priests, Readers and Lay Pastors who meeting monthly regularly to decide the rota of services, and discuss any pastoral matters .

Some new initiatives have been discussed and progress is being made to implement these to show that we are committed to seeing God's work grow , develop and thrive within our churches and the wider communities.

We are **exploring** what it means to work in close partnership with our neighbouring Benefices within the Deanery of Severn Vale. We are looking at the idea of a **missional covenant** as a framework for sharing in ministry when considering working with young people and in administration. We see this as a positive way forward for mission in the area. The project is a way to express our commitment to the LIFE priorities in the Diocese of Gloucester.



Please see the diocesan website for more information on the LIFE priorities.

Finally we look to celebrate more, looking for ways and occasions for parties together.

One thing the Leadon Vale does well is food.

THE RECTORY

The Rectory, which has lovely countryside views at the rear, is a modern, purpose built, detached family house situated in the centre of the quiet village of Redmarley, almost opposite the church. The front door leads through a central porch to the spacious downstairs accommodation comprising lounge/diner with kitchen, utility room, cloakroom and a large L-shaped study. On the first floor are four bedrooms and two bathrooms. The house is heated by oil fired central heating, there is a burglar alarm and the garden surrounds the property. There is a garage.



THE RECTORY



REDMARLEY VILLAGE

OUR PRIEST – IN – CHARGE

We are looking forward to welcoming a Priest-in-charge who will grow with us and we promise to be prayerful in our support.

In addition the Priest-in-charge will be supported in Gloucester Diocese with the possibilities of coaching and mentoring as well as the full support of the Bishop and Archdeacon.

We will welcome a person who:

- ❖ is prayerful and spiritual
- ❖ is imaginative about ways to grow the kingdom of God
- ❖ is a skilled encourager and enabler of change in mission and evangelism
- ❖ is able to encourage and release the gifts of others to develop the ministry of the whole church
- ❖ is experienced in collaborative worship
- ❖ is enthusiastic about working in and with schools
- ❖ is pastorally aware and able to build positive relationships in the communities
- ❖ is a skilled communicator across a variety of media
- ❖ is skilled in planning and leading worship, with others, which is engaging across a range of styles, ages and traditions.
- ❖ is willing to help us make courageous decisions

OUR PARISHES

“One of the joys of ministry in Leaddon Vale is to discover the unique nature and gift of each parish and church.”

We would like to introduce our nine parishes, each of which has its own character.

St Mary's Bromesberrow

Bromesberrow has a population of around 400, with St. Mary's having an electoral roll of 25. The majority live in Bromesberrow Heath, south of the M50 and A417 that bisect the parish. St Mary's Church is to the north of these roads. There are about 10-15 regular worshippers. Strong links are being developed with the VA school. There is a Community Shop and a large Christian conference centre. There is also an excellent Village Hall. Bromesberrow is in good financial health and has benefited greatly from the generous support of the local Albright Trust.

St Mary's Donnington



Although the parish is part of the Diocese of Gloucester, it is situated in the County of Herefordshire. The population is around 85 and dispersed through the parish. The electoral roll of St. Mary's is 33. Access to the church is through a field. The nearest village is Broom's Green where there is a well-equipped Village Hall.

The congregation is about 6 on a regular basis, but this is considerably augmented at Festivals. Church finances are good and Donnington rejoices in having substantial reserves.

St Mary's Dymock



Dymock is the largest village in the Benefice with over 1000 people and St. Mary's has an electoral roll of 56. There is a fine Village Hall and a well-loved and used Community Pub next to St Mary's Church. There is a steady average number of worshippers of around 25. Church finances are sound, and so is the church building. Dymock has a thriving musical life.

There are good links with Ann Cam school, which is the largest school in the Benefice, and a bi-monthly Men's Breakfast has met in the village pub for some 10 years.

St Edward's Kempley



Kempley has a population of about 250 and St. Edward's has an electoral roll of 15. The mediaeval church of St Mary's is in the care of English Heritage. The average number of worshippers is around 5-6.

St Anne's Oxenhall



Oxenhall is a mile from Newent and is a scattered community of around 180 and St. Anne's has an electoral roll of 38 with about 15 regular worshippers. St Anne's Church has a Parish Hall, finances are sound and the church building is in good condition and current project is addressing an issue of damp.

St John's Pauntley



Pauntley is a scattered parish of five hamlets with a total population of just over 200 and St. John's has an electoral roll of 26. St John the Evangelist Church is near Pauntley Court which is becoming a popular wedding venue, giving opportunities to develop further partnerships with the church. Average worshippers are 17. There is a church school and a village hall at Brand Green. The church is in good repair and finances are sound.

St John's Preston`

The parish has a population of around 180 in scattered settlements. St. John's has an average number of worshippers of 8-10 and the electoral roll is 16. The finance and the fabric of the church are sound.



St. Bartholomew's Redmarley



Situated in the centre of the village which has a population of approximately 750. Within the community there is a Care Home for people with learning disabilities and mental health issues. There are 35 on the electoral roll of St. Bartholomew's with an average Sunday congregation of 15. There are strong links with the Church school in the village and an active village hall. Finances and fabric both have their challenges in Redmarley, but there is a good heart to address these.

St Mary's Upleadon



The parish population is around 200 and St. Mary's has an electoral roll of 37. The village is a mile away from St Mary's Church. There is a village hall in the heart of the village.

The fabric is in good condition, while finances are stable. There are about 6-8 regular worshippers.

If you would like further information, please consult the websites of the individual parishes, the website of the Deanery of Severn Vale.

You are welcome for an informal discussion about Leadon Vale and this Profile with

The Archdeacon of Gloucester, The Ven Hilary Dawson 01452 835583/835555, 07719 310045,
archdglos@glosdioc.org.uk

Services & Readings for the Nine Parishes – June v.2

Note: All services in Contemporary English, except (BCP) = 1662 Book of Common Prayer

2nd Jun Easter 7 Psalm 97 Acts 16:16-34 Revelation 22:12-14, John 17:20-26 <i>White</i>	9th Jun PENTECOST Psalm 104:25-35, 37 Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17, 25-27 <i>Red</i>	16th Jun TRINITY Psalm 8 Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15 <i>Gold/White</i>	23rd Jun Trinity 1 Psalm 22:18-27 Isaiah 65:1-9 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39 <i>Green</i>	30th Jun Trinity 2 Psalm 16 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62 <i>Green</i>
St Bartholomew's Church, Redmarley				
11:00am Holy Communion JB	11:00am Morning Prayer Lay Led	11:00am Holy Communion TG	11:00am Family Service JB	
St Mary's Church, Bromesberrow				
	10:00am Matins (BCP) RP		10:00am Holy Communion TG	
St John's Church, Pauntley				
9:30am Matins (BCP) DC	11:00am Holy Communion BM		6:00pm Evening Prayer CD	
St Mary's Church, Upleadon				
		2:00pm – 50 Year Anniversary Service RF		10:00am Benefice Communion RF/CD/RF/CD
St Anne's Church, Oxenhall				
	9:30am Holy Communion BM		10:30am Matins (BCP) Lay Led	
St Mary's Church, Dymock				
9:30am Holy Communion AP	9:30am Family Service CD	9:30am Holy Communion TG	9:30am Holy Communion AP	
St Mary's Church, Donnington				
8:30am Holy Communion AP			11:00am Matins (BCP) Lay Led	
St Edward's Church, Kempley				
	6:30pm – Old Church Evening Prayer CD		9:30am Holy Communion RF	
St. John's Church, Preston				
	11:15am Holy Communion JB		11:15am Family Service RB	

Weekday Services:

1 st 2 nd 3 rd Wednesday	Morning Prayer	Redmarley	9:30am
4 th Wednesday	Said Communion	Redmarley	9:30am

SOME USEFUL LINKS

St Mary's Bromesberrow

<http://churchdb.gukutils.org.uk/GLS91.php>

St Mary's Donnington

<https://zymology.net/donn/>

St Mary's Dymock

<HTTP://www.dymockchurch.net/>

St Edward's, Kempley

http://www.wyedeantourism.co.uk/discover/all/t-3597%7C/i-4424-Kempley_Church__St_Edwards

St Anne's Oxenhall

<http://www.stanneschurch-oxenhall.org.uk/>

St John's Pauntley

<http://www.pauntleychurch.btck.co.uk/>

St John's Preston

<http://churchdb.gukutils.org.uk/GLS406.php>

St Bartholomew's Redmarley

<http://www.redmarley.org.uk/>

St Mary's Upleadon

<http://www.upleadon-village.co.uk/st-marys-church/>

Kempley Tardis

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

Severnvale Deanery

<http://www.severnvaldeanery.co.uk>

The Diocese of Gloucester

www.gloucester.anglican.org

Ann Cam CE Primary School

<http://www.anncam.gloucs.sch.uk/>

Bromesberrow CE Primary School

<http://www.bromesberrowschool.co.uk/website>

Pauntley CE Primary School

<http://www.pauntleyschool.com/>

Redmarley CE Primary Academy

<http://redmarleyacademy.org/>