St Mary, Prestbury

All Saints, Pittville

St Nicolas, Prestbury

St Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke with Uckington

North Cheltenham Team Ministry

St Lawrence, Swindon and Cheltenham St Peter

Profile 2017
Our Team Vision

♦ Worshipping
♦ Serving
♦ Growing
♦ Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

We offer you ....

♦ A traditional catholic parish in All Saints
♦ The opportunity to lead diverse forms of worship in the other churches of the Team
♦ Experienced and enthusiastic clergy colleagues
♦ Effective lay support in all four parishes
♦ A well run, well equipped and staffed Team administration office
♦ Our commitment to work with you in friendship and hospitality across the Team
♦ A purpose-built modern vicarage situated on the edge of an estate in the St Peter’s area of the benefice

Our Team Clergy

Team Rector: Revd Nicholas Bromfield
Team Vicar: Revd Elizabeth Palin
Team Vicar: vacancy
Permanent Deacon: Revd Jennifer Swinbank

Fr Nick  Revd Liz  Deacon Jennifer

St Peter’s Vicarage
“We hope you’re as excited by this post as we are ....!”

For All Saints parish

- Bishop Rachel's intention is to appoint a Team Vicar who, as well as meeting the mission and ministry needs of the parish and team, is also a mission-minded experienced traditional Catholic priest in full communion with the Bishop of Ebbsfleet and whose ministry meets the theological convictions of the PCC’s Declaration

- Who will accept and support the diversity of Christian backgrounds represented in our congregations and community

- Who will work with our PCC and lay leaders to further develop our Stepping Stones plan, and enable and empower others to help build it

- Who will be friendly, approachable and visible within the parish, engaging with the community, using modern communication techniques and traditional pastoral care to extend our outreach

- Who will enable us to develop as a teaching Church, both in the context of worship and outside that setting

- Who will take the lead in developing the catholic traditions of All Saints, to renew distinctively sacramental patterns of mission and discipleship which will enrich the whole Team

The Bishops say:
“You would be hard pressed to find a post offering such a breadth and depth of opportunity. It's an exciting adventure backed totally by us both, which the Church of England is watching with interest.”

For the whole Benefice

- Someone who considers it essential to prioritize personal prayer, contemplation and spiritual depth

- Has strong pastoral care values and considers visiting parishioners a priority

- Will help us to develop and implement a vision and plan for spreading the Gospel to our wider community

- Is happy to work in our schools, but is also able to communicate with and nurture our older parishioners

- Will meet mission and ministry needs across the whole Team in regular and occasional acts of worship

Might you be the priest we’d love to have - part of a dynamic ministry team in a fast-growing town and rural community in a beautiful location?
North Cheltenham Team Ministry

The North Cheltenham Team Ministry came into being on 1st September 2008. It comprises four parishes to the north of Cheltenham Spa within the Cheltenham Deanery and includes rural, urban, commercial and industrial environments.

Our five churches vary in age from Saxon through Victorian to 20th Century, four of which are listed.

All Saints, Pittville
St Mary, Mill Street, Prestbury
St Nicolas, Swindon Lane, Prestbury
St Lawrence, Swindon and Cheltenham St Peter
St Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke with Uckington

Our current staffing is a Team Rector (newly appointed), two Team Vicars (one post currently vacant) and a Permanent Team Deacon. They are well supported by active retired clergy, three licensed readers and two readers emeritus, a lay minister and a local ministry team. The well equipped and staffed office is currently open five mornings a week.

As a Team Ministry we affirm the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests, and the Five Guiding Principles at its heart. We are committed across the Team to making it possible for each other to flourish.

We offer a wide range of worshipping styles and diverse liturgy across the five churches. Congregation numbers vary, with most main Sunday services well attended, though in common with many other churches these days we would like to increase our numbers.

We have six schools situated within the Team, including church, state and independent, primary and secondary. Church contact with the secondary school is less than with the primary schools, something we feel needs addressing.

The Rock, a diocesan youth project, is based in the decommissioned St Peter’s Church. An independent charity, it provides support and activities for young people with challenging social behaviour and troubled backgrounds. The Rock has forged links with the churches of the Cheltenham Deanery, particularly with the North Cheltenham Team as it lies within our boundaries and our Team Vicar is currently on the Board of Trustees.

There are three Bible study groups in the Team, open to anyone interested, not necessarily members of our churches. In May each year there is a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, and several members of our churches attend a pilgrimage to Glastonbury in June.

There is a long-term proposal under the county’s Joint Core Strategy to build 4,500 new homes in the parishes of Swindon Village and Elmstone Hardwicke. A development of up to 300 new homes in Prestbury is well under way and 100 new dwellings in the parish of All Saints are now complete. We look forward to the opportunities and challenges these will bring us, expanding our ministry to an increasing population.

All the parishes in the Team are financially independent and usually meet our Diocesan Parish Share commitments.
THE PURPOSE OF ANY CHURCH should be, and the purpose of the five Churches of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry certainly is, to share the Good News of the resurrected, risen Christ with those whom we serve. There can be few benefices who can offer such a rich variety of ways to meet Him! Rooted in the Catholic tradition of the Anglican Church, aware of the saints who have travelled The Way before us and even more aware of our responsibility to hand on the Faith to those who live now, we offer a range of services and worship styles and times so that Church is accessible to as many as possible.

In December 2016 our benefice appointed a new Team Rector, Fr Nick Bromfield, who has served in the Diocese since 2002 and has joined us after ten years as rector of a benefice in the Forest of Dean. We have a Team Vicar, the Revd Liz Palin, who has been full-time in the benefice for four years and has particular oversight of two of our Team’s parishes. Our congregations have been robust and resourceful in the period of vacancy. Services have been maintained with the help of hard work from Team clergy and the good offices and good will of faithful retired priests.

The appointment of a new Team Vicar comes at a crucial and exciting time. As Team members look to creating the new Vision and Mission strategy, we are at a point of pausing to see: where we are now; what we need to do to get where we wish to be and to understand the human and spiritual landscape around us so we can make sure we are relevant to and engaging with the people whom we serve.

Although it is early days, some things are already emerging, notably:

- Our congregations are mainly level over the past year although there has been decline in some areas due to ageing and moving away
- There are some residential areas from which we draw few people and which can be a challenge to reach because of geographical awkwardness
- There is a need to offer more in the way of discipleship teaching and deepening individual faith
- The perennial challenge of engaging younger families and those aged 25-40 is present and a high priority. We are conscious that a growing proportion of modern families are led by single parents
- The high number of occasional offices provides almost limitless openings for attracting and supporting new Church members from well-disposed individuals and families
- After the short incumbency of the previous Rector, a time of settling and stability for the Team clergy and the Churches is a priority
- We could do more to foster a sense of being a Team with mixing of parishioners and worship together, while retaining the strong sense of identity of the individual Churches

The Diocese of Gloucester has recently published its new Vision “Life”, which will inform decision-making and financial planning and support for the next five years. We look forward to discovering how our own emerging Vision and Mission work dovetails with this and how it can enrich what we do; and in turn how we can enrich the mission of the whole Diocese.
All Saints, Pittville

Built by John Middleton in the French Gothic style and consecrated in 1868, All Saints has a traditional Anglo-Catholic Liturgy and a strong musical tradition.

We have a strong lay involvement in our services, including an active team of servers and the fine and ever growing choir continuing the strong choral tradition of All Saints, consisting of both adult and child voices.

Under the expert guidance of our Director of Music, they provide us with a wide variety of Mass settings, as well as a full choral evensong every Sunday. The choir are accompanied by our Hill organ, built by our first organist, Adolf von Holst, father of composer Gustav, who himself was baptised at All Saints and sang in the choir.

All Saints PCC passed a resolution under the Bishops’ Declaration, and Bishop Rachel has entrusted oversight here to Bishop Jonathan Goodall. Both bishops are very committed to a partnership that promotes the welfare and mission of the whole Team.

All Saints has 89 members on the electoral roll drawn from both within and, attracted by our style of liturgy, outside the parish. Most of the regular congregants are signed up to our planned giving schemes. Although, as with many other parishes, we are able to meet our Parish Share commitment and clergy expenses, our finances are in a stable but fragile state. This is largely due to the many
challenges associated with maintaining the fabric of a Grade 1 listed building. We have just about broken even over the last few years thanks mainly to legacies and donations.

All Saints is actively engaged in a process of mission and development called Stepping Stones, which seeks to develop an action plan for the future life of the Parish. The PCC has already identified a number of initial action points, whilst it continues to develop further medium term plans. Members of the congregation are also involved in the excellent pastoral care team led by the Permanent Team Deacon. This is an ongoing area of expansion within our parish.

An active Friends organisation supports All Saints by organising fund raising activities as well as informative bi-monthly talks and two outings a year.

The Church sits in the heart of All Saints Parish, a geographically small urban community of some 1,600 households of mixed demographic and age groups although 45% of the population fall within the 25 to 40 age range. There is a mixture of housing with no single large estate, the majority being owner occupied. Within the Parish there is a Free Evangelical Church, a Bangladeshi Community Centre, a Buddhist Centre and a Mosque.

We have a Church sponsored Scout Group (one of the oldest Groups within Cheltenham) with some 75 members drawn from 65 families who attend a number of services and events at church during the year.

The Church has good links with local schools, some of whom use the church for their services and concerts. We also maintain links with former pupils of the old All Saints C of E Secondary School, which closed in 1978, and with many former All Saints Scouts. We are also a collecting point for donations to the local Oakley Food Bank.

The Church is a regular arts and concert venue throughout the year for many and varied local music societies and acts as a ‘fringe’ venue during the annual Cheltenham Music Festival. We have strong links with the Holst Museum and the Holst Birthplace Trust, who also stage concerts at All Saints and include us in their various community projects.

Part of the church-owned land is let as small allotments, taken up by 16 members of the local community with a waiting list for vacant plots. The Church Function Room is also let during the day during term time to All Saints
Playgroup, an independent pre-school group, which has been in existence for 25 years and whose children are drawn from the immediate community.

Challenges

- Valuing the diversity of spiritual outlook and experience of a diverse congregation, whilst remaining faithful to Apostolic teaching
- Developing All Saints’ future as a teaching parish
- Enabling us to exploit the opportunities for mission in the parish (which is mostly residential, but also encompasses part of the shopping centre of Cheltenham)
- Exploiting our fine Liturgical and Musical traditions to foster growth
- Increasing both the number of active members and our stewardship income to help secure All Saints’ future
- Improving and enhancing our building to make it fit for mission in the 21st Century
St Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke with Uckington

St Mary Magdalene is a delightful rural church dating from Saxon times. The current building is of Norman origin, with extensive restoration in the late Victorian period. The south roof and porch have recently been re-tiled with the help of a grant of £80,000 from the Roof Repair Fund. A fund raising programme is in progress. The church is located in the village of Uckington and serves the village and the neighbouring village of Elmstone Hardwicke, with a total of some 400 homes in the parish.

St Mary Magdalene is an integral part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry, adding value as a rural ministry in contrast to the urban ministries. Previously we had been a benefice with St Lawrence, Swindon Village from 1934. Members of our congregation attend services and events at other churches in the Team and vice versa.

Of the 28 people on the electoral roll 10 live outside the parish. The congregation is small but enthusiastic and willing to try new things whilst respecting the traditions of the past. Although the profile of the congregation tends towards the senior citizen, about half the homes in the parish, especially those constructed more recently, are occupied by younger people.

We operate in a Fellowship style and enjoy a relatively high attendance in proportion to population! We welcome visitors and new members to our congregation and regularly meet with parishioners who cannot attend services.

Other activities include regular Monday Club meetings and Sunday lunches, and a range of well supported social events aimed at connecting with the wider community.

We collect for the County Community Project food bank, and also participate in Heritage Open Days, when we are able to display some of the country’s oldest records.

We have two licensed lay ministers who assist the Team clergy with planning and delivering services. They lead non-eucharistic services across the parishes and are recognised as our local ministers. Retired clergy often preside at communion services. Our tradition is for robed services.

In the parish we have a modern well-equipped Village Hall, run by the parish, where our various events, such as Jumble Sales, Harvest Lunch, Craft Fayre and Christmas Lunch are held.

We have a small working group reviewing our vision statement and developing plans for re-ordering the church.

Challenges

♦ Building a sustainable ministry of pastoral care
♦ The proposed housing development and the transition from rural to suburban parish
♦ Growing the church numerically and in depth of faith
There has been a church presence at Swindon Village since the early 11th century. The village also has a Manor House and a Hall and is steeped in history.

In 1934 a benefice with the neighbouring parish of Elmstone Hardwicke with Uckington was formed and in the 1990s was one of the first in Gloucester diocese to have a woman priest. The benefice was dissolved in 2008 when St Peter’s church closed and its parish was amalgamated with Swindon, which then became part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry.

The original village of Swindon was very rural with farms and market gardens. Over time open land has made way for housing, industrial and retail units. The original parish has tried to retain its village feeling and has a village hall which is used extensively for a number of social groups including Scouts, Beavers, village society, wine club and art club. During the day the hall is used by a play group.

The parish dynamic, however, has changed considerably with the amalgamation with St Peter’s and we now have a much more diverse demographic mix.

St Peter’s has areas of extreme deprivation as well as large retail and commercial activity. There is a high percentage of social housing within the area and a major road running through its centre, causing somewhat of a divide. Gas Green Baptist Church is now the only church offering regular services within the area. We have established links with them along with The Rock, a Christian based charity helping the disadvantaged and vulnerable youth in the local area. For the past couple of years we have held a joint Remembrance Day service at St Peter’s war memorial, and we are planning a joint event for Good Friday.

St Lawrence has a small robed choir who sing at Evensong, which is usually led by our reader emeritus. Once a month we hold an all age service, Together @ Ten Thirty, which started in 2012 and has proved to be very popular. We also have a team of bell ringers, a weekly study group and an informal coffee group called Chatterbox which is well attended, mainly by those who do not attend our regular services. The church is open Tuesday and Saturday every week between 10am and 4.30pm for visitors and private prayer.

There are two very well thought of primary schools within the parish. We have close links with them and run Open the Book in both. Pupils from Swindon Village school come to the church for special events such as Experience Easter.
Over the last ten years £240,000 has been spent on the church building. There has been restoration work on our unusual six-sided tower (no two sides the same); three roof slopes have been repaired; and the organ overhauled. In 2014 we installed a toilet and small kitchen. Several pews were removed and the font relocated to create a multipurpose space with modern facilities.

We have an active fundraising committee which has raised over £23,000 in five years by organising events such as the Harvest supper and quiz, Christmas tree festival, beetle drive and pudding evenings. We also have an annual Church fete and in the summer hold a Praise in the Park service, at which the whole parish comes together to have real fun.

We are at present reviewing our vision statement and looking to set new objectives. One will be to form even closer links with The Rock. We are also conscious that there is a great deal of mission work needed in the St Peter’s area of our parish.

Since we have become part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry, we feel that we have grown as a church community and have greater resources at our disposal.

Challenges

- Increasing the church presence in the St Peter’s area
- Outreach in industrial and retail areas
- Being prepared for the proposed housing development
RESTBURY PARISH stretches four miles from the top of the Cotswold escarpment to the boundary with Swindon parish. It is part rural, part urban, with a population ranging from young adults and families to the elderly and retired. There are two parish churches, St Mary and St Nicolas, the famous Prestbury Park race course lying between them.

St Mary’s church and churchyard lie at the heart of the village in the centre of the parish. The current building dates from the 13th century with substantial alterations in Victorian times. The interior is spacious, some side aisle pews being movable enabling the space to be used for social functions. An extensive programme of renovation was completed in autumn 2016, providing better heat insulation, a modern sound system and effective lighting throughout.

St Nicolas’ church lies towards the western end of the parish. Built in 1969, replacing the wooden structure dating from the 1930s, it is modern in a simple, elegant style with an outstandingly beautiful interior. A well appointed hall, kitchens and meeting room are attached, which are in constant use by the congregation and local community.

Sunday worship each week at St Mary’s includes a said Eucharist, a traditional sung Eucharist with candles and incense, vested priests, robed servers and adult choir, said Evening Prayer or Benediction, and a relaxed informal all-age service (Celebrate!) which attracts many young families and an increasing number of older people. At St Nicolas’ services are modern catholic with robed servers and adult choir, with our Brownies joining us at special services regularly throughout the year.

Both churches have a midweek Eucharist followed by refreshments. Other services during the week have small but regular congregations, Prestbury being a parish which traditionally celebrates the Eucharist daily.

We are thankful to have talented organists working with the choirs at both churches, and we have a worship band with vocalists and a junior singing group at St Mary’s, all of whom provide a good tradition of music for our services. Both churches are also used for concerts.

The churches are both well kept by volunteers. Clock winders and bell ringers care for the tower at St Mary’s and members of the congregations and local community maintain the churchyard.

Prestbury has an active Mothers’ Union branch attended by members not only of our own benefice churches, but also by others from churches in Cheltenham without their own branch.
The well-established Local Ministry Team enables and encourages lay participation in ministry across both churches, including pastoral care such as visiting the sick, housebound or bereaved.

We have a good ecumenical relationship with the United Reformed Church in Prestbury village. The URC very generously allowed us to use their church for services during the recent restoration work at St Mary’s.

St Mary’s Infant and Junior voluntary aided schools in the village are closely linked with the church in many ways. Open the Book is hugely popular in both schools; Experience Easter and Experience Christmas are regularly enjoyed by the pupils, and our clergy lead a school assembly most weeks. Pittville secondary school is also located in the parish; currently we have little contact with them, a gap we are keen to address.

We organise a wide range of social events including Harvest and Epiphany Suppers, country walks, thought-provoking lectures, quiz nights, and Christmas tree decorating. Both churches host midweek coffee and chat sessions.

The Friends of St Mary’s organisation raises funds expressly to assist with ongoing maintenance of the church building and churchyard. Although financially independent, it shares the PCC’s charity number. Social events organised by the Friends are as popular with local residents as with congregation members, and have proved to be an unexpected form of outreach and source of friendship between the two groups.

A youth group for 10 to 16 year olds has recently been launched, initially meeting monthly at The Rock at St Peter’s, with a focus on exploring faith and life.

Challenges

♦ Deepening our commitment of time, resources and talents through our Christian stewardship of the Gospel
♦ Increasing outreach to young adults
♦ Increasing outreach to older children and teens
♦ Greater involvement in community life
♦ Ensuring church presence in new housing developments
♦ Increasing our regular income
### Service Times

#### All Saints

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>08.00</td>
<td>Said Mass</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Sung Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18.30</td>
<td>Choral Evensong</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>with Benediction every last Sunday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>09.00</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.15</td>
<td>Said Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>followed by refreshments</td>
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#### St Nicolas, Prestbury

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>10.00</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Evening Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(excluding Sundays &amp; Bank Holidays)</td>
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#### St Mary's, Prestbury

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<td>Said Eucharist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>09.30</td>
<td>Celebrate! All-age worship</td>
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<td>11.00</td>
<td>Sung Eucharist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18.30</td>
<td>Evening Prayer (BCP)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>09.00</td>
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<td>09.30</td>
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Most services are Common Worship

#### St Lawrence

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<tr>
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<td>10.30</td>
<td>All-age Service</td>
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<td>18.30</td>
<td>Sung Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>09.15</td>
<td>BCP Holy Communion</td>
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<td>18.30</td>
<td>Evensong</td>
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<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>09.15</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>18.30</td>
<td>Songs of Praise</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(alternates with St Mary Magdalene)</td>
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#### St Mary Magdalene

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<td>10.30</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>or 18.30 Songs of Praise</td>
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<td>(alternates with St Lawrence; on the Sundays we host Songs of Praise, there is no Morning Service)</td>
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## Data

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<th>TOTAL for benefice</th>
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<td>3</td>
<td>17 (+6)</td>
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<td>burials of ashes (+ at crematorium)</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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<td>£123,840</td>
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The Parishes of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry