

The Bishop of Salisbury,
Let Us Talk,
Church House,
Crane Street, Salisbury, Wilts.
SP1 2QP

Character and Personality, Christ Church, Bulkington, Devizes

Bulkinton is a small, isolated, rural village with approximately 120 houses which include 3 small estates built during the last 25 years. These estates house the more youthful residents and form the bulk of the working inhabitants. The only communal meeting places are the Church, the small village hall and The Well Inn. The residents have to go outside of the village for employment, shopping, medical treatment and primary education. What is inside the village is not regarded as very important. Some people look for worship elsewhere where the congregations are bigger.

Attendance at Sunday worship is poor with less than 10 people going to Church twice a month. These people are the major contributors towards the share. However, there are no serious financial problems, the Church and the churchyard are well maintained. Maintenance of the Church is assisted by 40 members of 'The Friends of Christ Church' of whom approximately 30 do not attend services except at Christmas and Easter when general attendance is good.

During the greater part of the 16 years prior to Rev Renee Coulson, the incumbents were very much 'hands-on' coping with ministry and mission themselves. As a consequence, the lay ministry has not been developed.

The residents are very loyal towards each other and support their neighbours wholeheartedly during periods of sickness. Outside of this, it is not a close community with only a third supporting local activities. There are no signs of poverty, and no famous or highly qualified people. The majority of the residents are middle class (lower).


Susan Noad.

Deanery and Diocesan representative