

St. Andrews Church, Corton Denham

Corton Denham is a small village of around 180 people in beautiful, hilly country, north of Sherborne, in Somerset. The population consists of a few farmers, young families and a predominantly active, retired people drawn from quite a narrow social spectrum. There are also many 'visiting grandchildren.'

The Village Hall holds many social events, well supported by the whole community, including breakfast parties, Christmas dinners, quiz nights and weekly coffee mornings. There are several active social clubs and a local hostelry catering for a large number of visitors and walkers, providing social events including regular film nights.



The Church is regularly attended by a small congregation of around 15, rising to over 70 at special events. These include a Sunrise on the Beacon on Easter morning; very popular Remembrance and Carol Services and the occasional Pet Service.

The church, with many interesting features, was built in 1870 of local stone in a traditional style and replaced a much earlier building.

The community of Corton Denham pulls together as a whole, with individuals responsible for various aspects of the village, including the churchyard, now closed for burials. Its maintenance now rests with the Parish Council. The village has an inter-denominational cemetery which doubles as an attractive wildlife area maintained jointly by the Parochial Church Council and Parish Council.

Church Organisation.

The very active PCC is constantly looking for new ideas to involve all parishioners in the church. There is a deliberate policy to delegate church related tasks to a wide range of people. A large number of regular volunteers cover all aspects of Church life. The church is open during the day and is popular with visitors and those seeking reflection. The Church publishes 'The Corton Denham News' distributed to every home covering all aspects of village life and a weekly electronic notice sheet. All services and events are regularly included in the Corton Denham website.

Pet Service



Corton Denham loves a good, thought provoking, sharp sermon with crisp, to the point and inspirational preaching. St Andrew's church veers more towards a 'middle of the road' approach. Music is important to most in the parish.

Parish Agenda. The emphasis for development is to be part of the community and to build up the congregation, while staying in close contact with other churches within the Benefice. There needs to be continuous awareness of rural life, of problems including those of an ageing population in need of care, and both physical and spiritual loneliness. The authority of Scripture exercised with prayerful understanding is central.