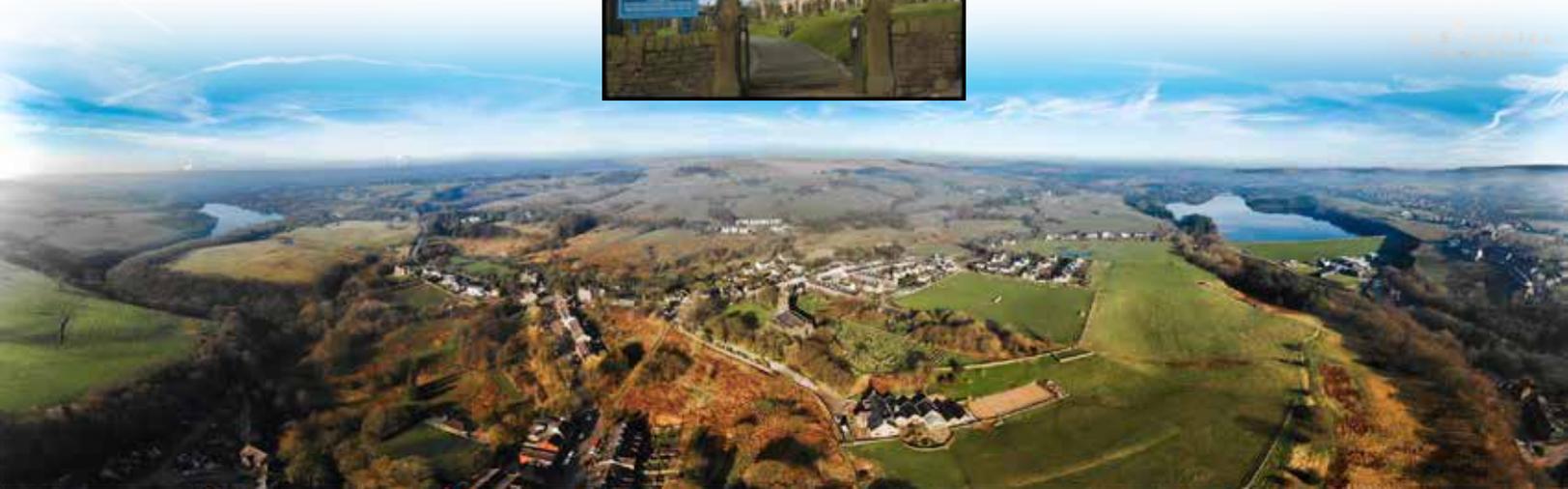
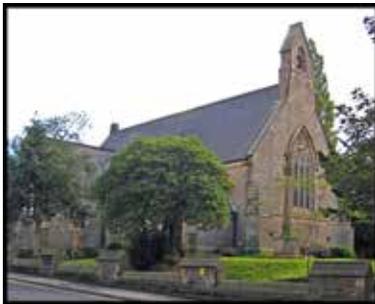


Turton Moorland Team

Four Parishes, Six Churches, One Vision



Turton Moorland Team Ministry

APPOINTMENT of TEAM RECTOR



Full time stipendiary post based at Turton St Anne and Edgworth St James

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We are seeking an enthusiastic priest who is committed to working co-operatively as part of a team and who is able to help develop and grow our faith. Whilst working as Rector of the Turton Moorland Team, our chosen candidate would ideally have significant experience as a parish priest, able to form and lead us in building the kingdom of God in this place.





THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

1. Turton Moorland Team

1.1 Mission priorities

When asked what the vision for the Team is our responses include: closer co-operation, bringing our congregations together more often, growing our young people's faith and activism.

*Like the rest of the diocese we want to grow our congregations and see them deepen in faith and Spirit.
We are looking to discern what all people bring to the work of God, to recognise it and see it bear fruit.
We want to find ways of serving our communities and so bring the Good News of Christ to them.*

The Team MAP identifies three areas for growth: maintaining and improving the formal expressions of Team and strengthening the infrastructure; growing Turton Youth Church to be a force for good in the churches of the Team and for their peers; developing new areas of joint activity e.g. extending lay ministries, Eco church, Fairtrade, Child Friendly Church.

The churches of the Team are well established, in contexts where the traditional expectations of church are still important. There are significant numbers of baptisms across the Team, with funerals and weddings not far behind. The liturgical tradition across the Team is Common Worship with a commitment to the Eucharist as the defining act of God's people. There are reasonably strong robed choirs in the three larger churches with in addition a mixed instrumental music group at Christ Church, and serving teams drawn from both adult and younger members of the congregations.

But we are all seeking ways of being Church for a different world. There is a growing sense that some old formats no longer work as well as they used to, along with a conviction that some of the work we want to do can be better done together.

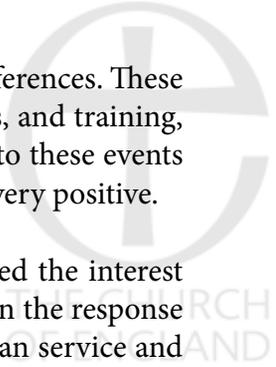
Mission Action Plans have been produced by each of the churches following consultation exercises with PCC's and congregations, followed up with a Team service. That process has identified for us where our parishes are and to where we would like to be travelling.

The most recent Team Service was held in September 2018 in the Millennium Chapel at Canon Slade School. Over 250 people from all six churches came to celebrate and worship together on the theme of Creation. The service was largely led by members of TYC. In addition to the participative homily which took the form of a Quiz Show, and games for the younger children, TYC prepared the altar and administered communion – but don't tell the Bishop!

Two work strands demonstrate the emerging green shoots of mission as a Team. The first arose from the simple data gathered from across the team parishes, which confirmed what everyone already knew: despite strong Sunday School and Junior Church groups, as teenage years approached we lost hold of young people to the pull of other activities.

From a fairly lengthy preparation period a designated project of the Team Council emerged nearly three years ago. Turton Youth Church is open to anyone aged 11 – 18 with a connection to our churches. Meetings offer Fun, Food, Friendship and Faith! Initially the volunteer group ran termly sessions mixing games, exploration of specific topics e.g. homelessness, Fairtrade, and food. This year in a new development TYC is meeting on a monthly basis with a designated volunteer leader. Numbers seem to have had a growth spurt with 23 at the January meeting.





Elsewhere, we have drawn on the skills of clergy associated with the Team to organise mini-conferences. These have offered a Saturday morning of experience in Spirituality and Prayer; leading intercessions, and training, support and recognition for those who serve as Eucharistic Assistants. The numbers attracted to these events demonstrated a thirst for the building of these aspects of Christian life. The feedback has been very positive.

With a history of encouraging vocations, fostered by previous incumbents, we have recognised the interest in and need for the development of ministry in its richest sense. The green shoots here has been the response to the need to grow ministry to feed both new ventures and sustain the ongoing life of Christian service and worship in local communities.

Lay leadership is already embedded and accepted in our parishes, largely in the traditional arenas. This enabled the Team to adjust to the reduction in full time clergy. With help from SSM and PTO licensed clergy (associated with the Team), it has proved just about possible to meet the existing patterns of worship and activity the churches desire. While we don't expect further reduction in the number of clergy licensed to the Team, it is clear that authorised lay ministry will play an increasingly large role in the future delivery of teaching, leadership and pastoral care in our part of the deanery.

With changes to diocesan structures and organisation, there may also be alterations to existing deanery priorities and futures. As part of a Team, lay and ordained, we will continue to hold what we can do together with what we do at home. Each parish has its own tradition and life that will form the context for the new Rector.

From our discernment process, we look for someone committed to the Team as a functioning and organising body in the life of our churches, who can balance this with a traditional parish based role in which we can share in the love and support of a local community.



Lighting the way through our modern world



1.2 Community Profile

The area covered by the four parishes of the Turton Moorland team is located to the north of Bolton, at the northernmost extent of Greater Manchester. The border between Greater Manchester and Lancashire passes through three of the four parishes in the team. In character, the team area varies from suburban Bolton in the south to rural Lancashire in the north. In this dramatic and beautiful setting you will find churches that are firmly rooted in established communities.

While our populations are mixed, the cost of properties often attracts those with steady and larger incomes. Some come with time and talents to devote to building up community and family life. The church also has to find a place among active, secular groups in attracting affiliation and faith. For many the attraction of church, for those with young children at least, often relates to schools access. Even so, this opportunity for presenting and calling to faith is a rich seam for building community and kingdom alongside each other.

Church primary schools exist in 3 of the 4 parishes, and one large Church secondary school (Canon Slade) to which significant numbers of our pupils move on. The fourth parish has strong links with the community school in the village. Governing body work and regular contact with the schools is a part of a major commitment of both clergy and lay members. Resourcing ourselves to meet the changing demands is key so that the Church foundation of the schools is not weakened but strengthened in the process.

We are about to become involved in a major new project sponsored by the Diocese of Manchester: Children Changing Places. This will provide significant extra resources to the Deaneries in Bolton to build up the support for children's faith development through the parish and school provision. Church Toddler groups, Primary schools and the three secondary schools of the Bishop Fraser Trust will all benefit from targeted advice and support from project staff.



Joining our community together in faith



Background Data

Ethnicity: while Bolton is one of the more ethnically diverse towns in the UK, the parishes of the Turton Moorland team are not. The 2011 census shows the BME population in Bolton to comprise 21%, compared with 14% for England and Wales. However, the area covered by the Turton Moorland Team parishes has a BME population of less than 2%.

Education: the proportion of the team area population educated to degree level or above is 38%, compared with 26% for the town of Bolton, and 27% for England and Wales.

Wealth and Deprivation: The census does not directly measure the wealth of respondents. However, the Church Urban Fund, (CUF), has estimated the level of deprivation in every parish in the UK. Using measures such as the prevalence of social housing, lone parenthood, unemployment, child and adult poverty and other figures, the CUF have calculated an index of deprivation by which all parishes can be ranked. (See <http://www2.cuf.org.uk/lookup-tool>). By these criteria all four parishes in the team rank as being in the 10% least deprived in the UK.

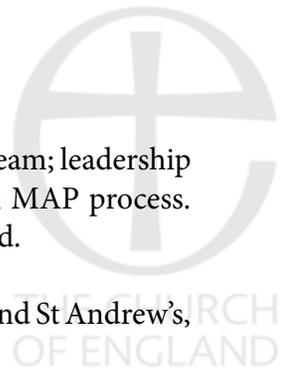
The usual measures of deprivation may not be high in any of our parishes but the pastoral needs remain, including the needs of rural communities. Others are hidden and take time to identify. All our Mission Action Plans recognise the importance of reaching out to our communities.

Photos from our local area...



Building a community of Faith, Hope and Love





1.3 The Team: leadership and capacity

Team Rector: The Incumbent with oversight of the whole team including support of the clergy team; leadership in the development of the Team Council, acting as Chairperson and co-ordinating the Team MAP process. Special responsibility for the parish of St Anne's with St James, where the clergy house is located.

Team Vicar: f/t Revd Carol Hayden, with special responsibility for the parish of Christ Church and St Andrew's, and vocations and ministry across the Team.

Team Vicar: p/t Revd Janina Ainsworth, with special responsibility for the parish of St Maxentius, and children and youth across the Team, including Turton Youth Church and schools support.

SSM: Revd Chris Jamieson, with special responsibility for the parish of St Peter's

The Team clergy meet regularly for prayer and planning.

In addition Revd Marcus Bulcock is OLM in the Team, ministering chiefly at St James', and there are a number of retired clergy with PTO who assist.

Lay leadership is well established in most of the parishes largely in traditional areas of worship - serving, reading and intercessions - and the maintenance of buildings and administration. 7 people are in training as ALM's taking electives in worship, youth work, community links and pastoral care.

1.4 The journey to this point

The last 5 years have seen significant advances in the development of the Team, bringing the parishes together in actual collaboration and building friendships. That has been the guiding principle of ministry here. A major achievement has been the building of the infrastructure to support collaborative planning and work across the team.

- We have a Team office (housed in a small vestry room) centrally located and staffed by a part time Team Administrator. This provides the first contact for anyone making enquiries about pastoral/occasional offices, in search of news, or looking for contact
- We have a single rota for services covering four months at a time. This is a strong signal of commitment to each other, and provides a framework that ensures the individual churches feel secure in their leadership but also that all clergy are able to build relationships with the other churches
- The Team Council has delegated responsibilities agreed by each PCC and is managing two main work streams: Turton Youth Church and the Team MAP, as well as being a forum for exchanging achievements and challenges. Each parish sends members who report back to their PCC
- Joint celebrations where people, choirs and worship leaders come together. There is an established pattern of a shared Holy Week service on Maundy Thursday and a Team Patronal Festival celebrated near to Lady Day in September. We have met as a full Team to commit our MAP processes to God in worship
- We share learning together through combined Advent courses, and have run mini conferences on Lay Ministry (Eucharistic Assistant support and training) and Prayer and Spirituality, Leading intercessions
- We jointly embarked on the process of identifying and sponsoring candidates for ALM, 7 of whom have started their training this year.





2. The parishes of the Team

2.1 St Anne Turton and St James Edgworth

The parish of St Anne with St James comprises two churches which stand in the villages of Chapeltown and Edgworth. The churches are different in character and appearance resulting in a diverse congregation who worship both separately and together.

St Anne's is the parish church and the present building was completed in 1841. It is traditional in construction and style of worship. This impressive building, with the unusual feature of a pulpit that is also the village's war memorial, can be seen from miles away and is known by some as "the cathedral on the hill". The congregation aspires to a broad age range, with, more recently, some families and younger children enjoying the variety of worship we offer. With new membership, we are looking at how to improve the participation of younger people and widen the leadership in the delivery of worship.

The church plays an important role in village life, with many family connections through the pastoral offices. Amongst other user groups, there is a popular Mother and Toddler Group which meets weekly in the Broadhead room at the back of the church and is a great outreach to new families in the community. St Anne's hosts an annual flower festival which draws people from and to the village and the wider area. September 2016 saw St. Anne's open its doors as part of National Heritage Open Days. The village community, both churches and the nearby Turton Tower, came together to showcase the village and the churches. The success of this venture encouraged the parish to repeat the exercise in September 2018 to equal success.

St James' church was built in 1905 as a mission church to serve the growing population of Edgworth village and is less traditional in its outside appearance and style of worship. Built on a sloping site there is a large room beneath the church space where Children's Church meets during the Sunday service. The congregation is more family based, with equal numbers of children and adults, and the worship attempts to reflect this in an approach that is more informal than the parish church.



The space at St. James has been used imaginatively over the years, serving as a community asset. It has hosted a New Year's Eve dance, an annual hoe down and harvest supper and, more recently, a Christmas Tree Festival and Ladies' Afternoon Tea. St James' also hosts a "parish breakfast" on the 5th Sunday of the month. On Palm Sunday, local churches combine and walk from St James' via the Primary School and Edgworth Methodist Church to St Anne's, accompanied by Roly the donkey. This visible outreach allows us to showcase the churches' presence in the community.

In recent years, we have sought opportunities in the church's year to bring the people of St. Anne's and St James' together, to enjoy the benefits of a wider fellowship and to deepen our understanding of our shared mission and purpose under God.

The parish of Saint Anne's with Saint James' is vibrant and well established both within itself and within the local community. Nevertheless, there are challenges faced by the parish. St James' building presents serious issues of maintenance, which will mean some hard decisions to be made. There has been a clear divide between the congregations in the past with families finding St James a more comfortable atmosphere, but a start has been made on softening this. In addition the PCC is mindful of the decline in church attendance both within the diocese and within the Church of England generally.

The congregation is aware, both intuitively and through the Mission Action Planning process that we should be a 'worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community'. The congregation is likewise aware that our values are 'faith, hope and love' and that our church should be 'growing, nurturing and serving'.

It is, hence, imperative that we look to the next five years in the terms set out above. The key areas of work are:

- Worship: maintaining the commitment to traditional forms of worship but also offering a spiritually engaging and more modern experience for those who attend on Sunday
- Engaging with spirituality including introducing a more meditative approach in worship
- Church and community: becoming more outward looking, widening the points of contact with the community
- Communication: incorporating modern technology
- Engaging other people [to commence from 1st December 2019].
- Church leadership: extending the opportunities for lay leadership [to commence from 1st December 2019].

The Vicarage was built as "St Anne's Lodge" in 1880, and is a substantial stone property at the junction of High Street and Station Road Chapelton, Turton. It is a substantial 4 bedroom stone building under a Westmorland slate roof with timber floors and a large multi-room cellar. There are large gardens surrounding the building with an integral garage and an adjoining "stables block" currently used for storage.

It is in a good state of repair most recently having had substantial work carried out on the roof.





2.2 St Peter Belmont

St Peter Belmont is a village parish comprising about 300 homes. It is the third smallest and one of the most remote parishes in the Diocese of Manchester and is the most rural in the Team. Most of the working residents commute to Bolton, Blackburn or Manchester.

St Peter's is the only church in Belmont so its congregation is drawn from a variety of Anglican and other Christian traditions, giving it an ecumenical feel. Sunday morning worship attendance averages 40 adults and 20 children and the service takes one of several forms, ranging from sung Morning Prayer to more modern all-age services. Our Wednesday morning communion service, focusing on praying for the sick, attracts around a dozen people.

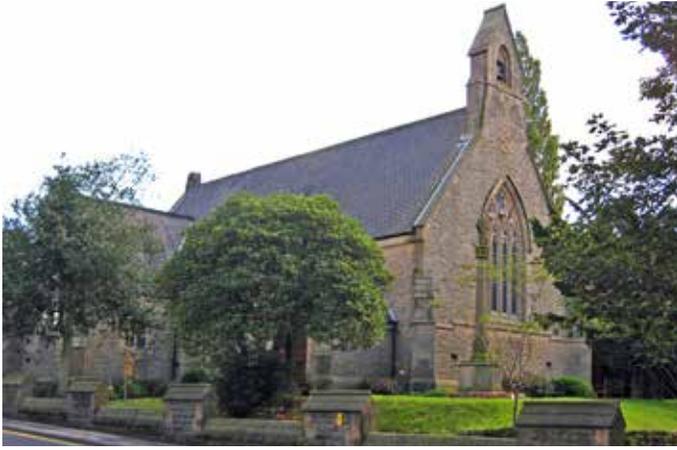
A well-attended Sunday School meets in the Parish Room during worship and the children join the congregation at the end of the service to share what they have been learning. Children are encouraged to participate in the leading of worship and usually read prayers, and sometimes provide activities, in the monthly all-age service.

There has been a long tradition of lay involvement in worship and other church activities which is now being affirmed and extended through ALM training. Currently most of our services are taken by a non-stipendiary minister, ordained to the team but with primary focus at St. Peter. He also provides pastoral support for the church and village. We have a strong Mothers' Union and we actively support local, national and international Christian organisations.

Belmont has a strong, if increasingly threatened, sense of community and the bimonthly Church magazine is delivered to every home in the parish. The church has fostered close relationships with the community primary school and pupils contribute to events and special services. There is no church or village hall so social events, including seasonal Fairs and exhibitions are held in the main church building. Community organisations, such as Country Dancing and a monthly Luncheon Club, also use the church. A recent development has been the opening of a sponsored Post Office for two hours a week on a Friday morning.

Although by national standards the parish is relatively wealthy and problem-free, church membership is drawn largely from retired people and young families so both recruiting people for leadership positions, and raising the parish share, are always a challenge.

The Victorian building has deteriorated over the years but the congregation and community have raised the finance necessary to restore the spire and roof to good condition. As part of our Mission Action Plan we are actively seeking to re-order the church building to provide more appropriate community space while maintaining and enhancing the integrity of the worship area. One area of particular concern however is the management and condition of the churchyard.



2.3 St Maxentius Bradshaw

The Parish of St. Maxentius is situated in the SE corner of the Team. The original village has been much developed and is now predominantly suburban in character though with some farmland remaining.

There are normally 2 main services on Sundays. The 9.30am Family communion has a regular attendance of 80-100 rising to 120+ on Youth Sundays. We have a large robed choir and servers team of all ages. At 11am there is a said communion, offering a more reflective service with approximately 20 regulars. We have lay assistants to read, lead intercessions and assist at the distribution of communion.

We support people in our congregation to become part of the church and to take on responsibilities including ALM training, fabric, social, administration and youth. All these report back to our pro-active PCC who are very supportive of all work done in this way.

There is an active and growing “Little Church” for the under 5’s that meets in the vestry during the 9.30 service and join the congregation for communion. At the same time the 5-8 year old children have Junior Church in the nearby scout hut. A number of 8–12 year old ‘St Max Seniors’ stay in the service and complete worksheets on the theme of the service. There are about 30 children and 12 adults who hold a communal worship and activities. They start at 9.15 so that parents can drop them off and still have time to get to church on time. They then also join us for communion. After communion we enjoy a ‘show and tell’ with both groups which is loved by everyone. Refreshments are served after the service to encourage fellowship.

Strong links are maintained with the day school in which the vicar leads assemblies and once a term has a communion service or Key Stage 2 in school. There are usually about 30 children who receive having been admitted to communion at St Maxentius or other local churches. Other services for school are held in church and are very well attended.

Children are admitted to Holy Communion at 8; confirmed when they are in Yr 7 or older. In addition we have many youth organisations from the Scout and Guide movement, as well as a toddler group. Our Mother’s Union is very active within the work of the church and also plays an important pastoral role within the congregation.

Our Mission Action Plan prioritises building a stronger sense of community within our congregations. We are exploring ways in which the much loved but somewhat inflexible building can be adapted or extended to enable us to expand our provision, in the form of community meeting and activity spaces. This will enable us to play a bigger part within Bradshaw and to pinpoint neighbours in need.

We are reviewing service times, exploring Eco church and have recently had a stewardship campaign which has enabled us to use more of peoples’ time and talents.



2.4 Christ Church Walmsley and St Andrew Bromley Cross

The Parish of Walmsley covers most of the area of Egerton and Bromley Cross and is served by two church buildings; Christ Church Walmsley (built 1837/8) and the daughter church, St. Andrew, Bromley Cross (present building built 1994). The original villages have been subsumed by suburban housing although the outlying areas of the parish are moorland. The Parish encompasses a Parish Hall and the Hideaway which are well used by local community groups.

A normal Sunday sees 4 services across the Parish:

- 8:00 Said Communion at Christ Church - regular attendance of 20-30 (BCP on the 1st Sunday of the month)
- 9:30 Choral Communion at Christ Church - regular attendance of 80-120 (non-Eucharistic Family/Parade service on the 1st Sunday of the month with music led by River of Life Music Group). During the 9:30 service the Junior Church (approx. 40 children) meets in the Parish Hall and the Hideaway
- 11:00 Choral Communion at St Andrew – regular attendance 40-50 (Family/Parade on the 3rd Sunday of the month) During this service St. Andrew's Sunday School meets in the small meeting room at St. Andrew The children join the main service at the Peace
- 6:30 Evensong at Christ Church (lay led– regular attendance 25-35).

There is also a said Communion at Christ Church on a Tuesday morning.

There are strong links with Walmsley C.E primary school with a weekly full school communion service which is co led by the children.

Our vision is to continue our journey with God. We want to play our part in the diocesan vision of a worshipping growing and transforming presence at the heart of every community.

We are committed to caring giving and serving all of those whom God puts in our path: 'To love the Lord our God with all our hearts and to love our neighbours as ourselves'

The values that drive our life as a church are:

- becoming a church where prayer is central to our lives
- valuing all people by being open and inclusive
- sharing what we have with others.

Our Mission Action Plan for the next 3 years has the following priorities and we have begun to action them.

Priority one: ensuring that our buildings are fit for mission

Priority two: engaging with the local community

Priority three: growing the congregation

Priority four: increasing lay leadership.

3. Resourcing the future

We are looking for someone who:

- is enthusiastic about fresh challenges and ready to build the body of Christ across the Turton Moorland Team
- is collaborative in their approach to God's work, seeking to bring out the best in ministry and leadership from the people you work with, lay and ordained
- has sufficient experience and a relish for leading a busy parish with well established teams and members helping things run smoothly
- has resources to offer to discover and develop vocations and ministries, lay and ordained, across the Team
- identifies as a theologian and teacher, calling people into faith and spirituality as the foundation of fellowship
- is comfortable with a range of liturgical traditions, drawing on the diversity of practice within the parish and across the team, as we come together in worship and praise of God's presence among us
- is wholly committed to team working and especially to motivating and enabling a diverse clergy team to minister effectively
- has an enthusiasm for the many facets of parish life, especially the benefits that come from a commitment to pastoral care and relationships across the age range
- is ready to engage with the interests of the local community, building support and openness to existing and new relationships
- is ready to discover the benefits of what we can achieve together under God as an extension of parish life.

In short: someone with strong gifts in ministry and leadership.

Please contact Archdeacon Jean Burgess (0161 761 6117) for a link to additional information including parish and Team accounts

