

The Bishop of Carlisle
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Thank you for enquiring about the possibility of a post in Carlisle Diocese. I hope that this letter will help to explain something of our current context.

First, there is an expectation that all Clergy ministering in the Diocese of Carlisle will be committed to the key Diocesan priority of Growing Disciples. Our 'Vision and Strategy' document with this title is on the Diocesan website.

Three ecumenical strategies – for outreach, ministry and buildings - which are designed to help us grow disciples have been brought together under the heading 'God for All.' These are also on the website, and include the setting up of Mission Communities. Developing and supporting patterns of being Church that promote effective evangelism and witness are an important part of our task.

Those appointed to stipendiary and non-stipendiary posts within the Diocese will therefore be people who are willing to welcome these proposals, and who will look forward to putting them into practice. They will recognise that this will often mean working in new ways, both for themselves and for parishioners. They will need to be:

- enthusiastic about working collaboratively with stipendiary and self-supporting colleagues, including those occupying 'mission posts';
- committed to working ecumenically wherever possible;
- open to the prospect of having a greater ministry of oversight;
- keen to encourage 'every member ministry';
- able to manage change and sensitive to those who find change difficult;
- passionate about preaching and teaching the Gospel.

I see this as a time of considerable challenge and great opportunity. We are looking for Clergy who are eager and ready for both. For many reasons (not just the stunning scenery!) we like to think of ourselves as "probably the best Diocese in England" in which to live and work. We do hope that as you read the enclosed documents you may feel that God is calling you to join us.

James Newcome
Bishop of Carlisle

(Website: <http://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/>)