

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Mission Priest in the Abbeylands Team

Diocese of Leeds

Benefice of Abbeylands consisting of the Parishes of Horsforth St. Margaret, Kirkstall St. Stephen and Hawksworth Wood with Moor Grange, Leeds

1 Details of post

Title: Mission Priest in the Abbeylands Team

Name of benefice: Abbeylands

Episcopal area: Leeds

Archdeaconry: Leeds

Deanery: Headingley

2 Role Purpose

2.1 General

In collaboration with Team colleagues and laity to prayerfully be led by the Holy Spirit to discern the signs of God's kingdom in our midst and to respond as appropriate.

In collaboration with the bishop and colleagues to exercise the cure of the souls shared with the bishop in this benefice and to carry out the ministries of word, sacrament and pastoral care.

To be rooted in this community, to exercise a priestly role in all of its life and to share the love and just concerns of God in responding to local needs and circumstances.

2.2 Specific

To reach out to the area of the Team parishes south of the A65 including the new communities of Horsforth Vale and Kirkstall Forge developing new initiatives and forging links with established churches as appropriate.

To consult widely on the future mission and ministry needs of the new communities and how these might be resourced.

To contribute to the ministry and shared leadership of the Abbeylands Team.

To maintain and develop own spiritual life and understanding of theology in current context.

3 Contacts

Key contacts:

The Bishop of Leeds (Diocesan Bishop)

The Bishop of Kirkstall (with responsibility for the Leeds Episcopal Area)

Archdeacon of Leeds

Team Rector - to whom the Associate Priest is responsible

Team Vicar – who has special responsibility for the parishes of Kirkstall & Hawksworth Wood

Area Dean and Lay Chair of Headingley Deanery

Diocesan Ministry and Mission team

Colleagues in the Diocesan Office

Other significant contacts:

Head of Commercial Development at Kirkstall Forge

4 Context

4.1 Kirkstall Forge is a major new mixed development on the banks of the River Aire, four miles out of Leeds City Centre. The site will ultimately become home to a thriving mixed-use community, comprising 1,050 new homes, 300,000 ft² of offices and 100,000 ft² of retail, leisure and community space. Once complete, more than 10,000 people will live, work and visit the site. The first office block is now up and running, a new railway station has opened with a direct link to Leeds (10 minutes), and the first residential units are being built in 2018. A new primary school is also being opened on the site

4.2 Horsforth Vale is a large mixed housing development on the site of the former Clariant factory adjacent to the River Aire. It is planned to build around 500 houses on the site and the first stages of the development are now complete with new families in residence.

4.3 Newlay and the Victorias. Between these two new developments there is a residential area of Horsforth, mainly developed in the 50's and 70's, which is geographically farthest from the Parish Church and separated from the rest of the town by both the A65 and the Leeds Outer Ring Road.

4.4 Kirkstall Abbey is a twelfth century Cistercian monastery, the ruins of which are now looked after by Leeds City Council and are set in an area of parkland. There are good relationships with the church. Team clergy run Easter and Christmas events in the Abbey and St Stephen's Church has a presence at the annual Kirkstall Festival, the largest community festival in Leeds run entirely by volunteers (which last year attracted around 25,000 people).

4.5 Kirkstall Bridge Retail Park The westernmost part of the southern area of the Team parishes comprises two retail areas, one around a large Morrisons store and the other the recently opened 'Kirkstall Bridge Shopping Park'.

5. Churches of the Team:

5.1 St Margaret's Church, Horsforth

The church of St Margaret's is led by the Team Rector. It has three services each Sunday and a strong choir and Junior Church. The main service has an average adult congregation of 82. The church and Parish Centre are used extensively by the local community hosting weekly retirement groups, pre-school classes, and choir rehearsals as well as events and parties. St Margaret's also runs a Real Junk Food Project café every Monday and hosts a Craft Aid International workshop for the disabled on Fridays.

5.2 St Mary's, Hawksworth Wood

The churches of St Mary's and St Stephen's are led by the Team Vicar. The congregation of St Mary's averages 35 adults and there are 52 names on the Electoral Roll. There is a Junior Church (usually about 9 children) led by a paid Children's Worker.

5.3 St Stephen's, Kirkstall

Average Sunday attendance is 44 adults plus a small Sunday School. Wednesday communion has around a dozen attendees and up to sixty people attend the monthly Messy Church on Saturday afternoons. The church has a choir and a strong musical tradition led by our organist, Tim Knight, who is also a composer and director of a number of local choirs.

5.4 St Andrew's, Moor Grange

St Andrew's is a Chapel of Ease built in 1967 to serve Moor Grange Estate, a housing estate begun in 1955. Two years ago, the parish's congregations combined for a single Sunday service at St Mary's while retaining a Wednesday morning service at St Andrew's attended by around 10 people. Recently the nearby Abbey Grange C. of E. Academy has begun to use St Andrew's as an offsite facility for supporting vulnerable students and we are currently exploring the best use of this building for mission.

6. Archdeacon's Comments:

Our vision as the Diocese is for confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. For all of our appointments we are seeking clergy who have a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record of church growth.

All new appointees in the Diocese are required to undertake:

- (i) the diocesan induction programme which includes diocesan training for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults,
- (ii) a course on presence and engagement in the context of other faiths, and
- (iii) the residential "*Leading Your Church into Growth*" course (LYCiG).