

Associate Priest - Summary

A very warm welcome to the parishes of Christ Church, South Ossett and Trinity Church, Ossett

We are two open Evangelical parishes in the Wakefield Episcopal Area of the Anglican Diocese of Leeds and we are looking for an Associate Priest to work alongside the Priest in-Charge in leading us forward as we seek to work together in proclaiming the Kingdom of God to the people of this significant town in West Yorkshire.

Ossett, (incorporating the village of Gawthorpe), is a market town of two parishes (Trinity Church and Christ Church) and sits within the City of Wakefield. The town has a strong sense of community with excellent amenities for all ages with a mix of housing and socio-economic groupings. There are also a number of industrial areas, mainly in the service sector, providing local employment, although Ossett is predominantly a commuter town for Leeds, Wakefield and the surrounding areas and has excellent rail access (Dewsbury (East/West) and Wakefield (North/South) train stations) and road links from the M1, M62. The local primary and secondary schools have excellent reputations.

The town has two markets a week and a monthly Farmers market. It also has a vibrant Saturday events calendar with summer films outside, 1940's festivals, car festivals, the Gawthorpe Maypole celebrations and World Coal Carrying Championships that are great opportunities for outreach.

Our parishes are in need of an engaging and collaborative Associate Priest to work alongside the Priest in Charge. The kind of Associate Priest we are looking for is someone to:

- Inspire and encourage the congregations of Christ Church and Trinity Church with a clear vision, whilst recognising the integrity of the distinctiveness of the two churches
- Promote the churches' mission and outreach across Ossett and Gawthorpe, with a focus on the quality of evangelism, rather than the quantity of attendees and encouraging the congregation to grow in confidence in their witness
- sensitively facilitate change and further the vision of collaborative ministry across Ossett and Gawthorpe
- help work with the PCCs towards development of the local church and review that vision with them
- continue Bible teaching and nurture to develop the ministry of laity, through training, delegation, encouragement and support, to enable greater involvement in the mission and ministry of the parishes, and ensure the pattern of services strengthens that
- continue building an outward looking community, so the congregations and communities are better equipped to contribute to the life of the town
- help care for and develop the heritage of our buildings
- (As a PCC member) take a proactive role in the responsibility for the delivery of high quality childcare provision (based at Trinity Church).

What we have to offer:

- Congregations that are committed to being 'Good News' for the parishes in which they are based
- A family of Christian believers committed to prayer and led by the Spirit
- PCCs (and church families) who will support, encourage, care for and counsel you
- An 'All-involved' culture where almost everyone has an active role in Church and outreach
- Vicarages that are in good condition, with both of them a few minutes from their respective church buildings.

The Associate Priest will live at the Vicarage at Trinity Ossett and the Priest-in-Charge will live in the Vicarage at South Ossett.

We very much look forward to hearing from you and helping to discern God's call in this place.