

Bishop's Letter – Full-time Vacancy based in Parish of Bilton, Harrogate:

0.5 Team Vicar Vacancy in the Parish of Bilton together with

0.5 Ministerial Development Officer, Ripon Episcopal Area

Thank you for your interest in the post of Team Vicar of Bilton combined with Ministerial Development Officer for the Ripon Episcopal Area in the Diocese of Leeds. The two parts of the role are intended to be mutually resourcing. Neither are new, but this is the first time they have been put together, rooting the Ministerial Development role in parish ministry, in the Episcopal Area in which the individual will have local formational oversight for curates and clergy. More information about the Ministerial Development role is provided in a separate document by Revd Steve Proudlove, the Director of Ministry and line manager for this half of the role.

The Diocese of Leeds is now an adventurous and hopeful teenager, having just had its 13th Birthday since it was borne out of the former dioceses of Ripon and Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield. There is a growing appreciation of the ways in which the breadth of vision and depth of resources of a large diocese can support the ministry of parishes in our various contexts. The Barnabas programme, now well established and supported by central funding, encourages and enables clergy, parishes and diocesan employees to be confident in our mission, in our future, in our leadership and our witness. There is much more to be found on the diocesan website at [Barnabas](#).

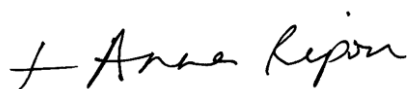
Since I arrived in the Diocese 3 years ago I have found an incredibly warm welcome, supportive colleagues and an enabling culture. There is a sense of 'youthfulness' in the structures which encourages creativity and innovation and is not hampered by deep seated tradition which can limit openness to change. Further, the unsettling journey of establishing a new organisation is now complete. In the Ripon Episcopal Area, as is the case across the Diocese, clergy and ministers are deeply committed to mission and ministry and appreciate the collegiality they enjoy with one another, working together to overcome challenges, develop vision and implement plans. In my opinion, and based on my experience, this is a very positive and hopeful time for someone to consider joining the Diocese of Leeds (or moving within it).

Harrogate is an important town in the diocese. It is a regional centre for education and for retail, and a number of those who live here work not only in the town but across the region. The church is an important part of the life of Bilton and of the whole town, and it includes exciting shared ventures such as [Netmakers – Local churches for mission](#) and the [Harrogate School of Theology & Mission – Excellent theological and biblical training open to all](#). The Harrogate deanery is strong and the clergy support one another, and as we move into a time of growing stronger as deaneries in the Ripon Area, there is eagerness and commitment to deepen and strengthen local connections and discover how churches and people can mutually resource one another and share ministry and mission even more.

The members of the congregations at St John's and St Luke's are faithful and committed. They have a confident sense of mission and support their clergy faithfully in prayer and fellowship. They are eager to welcome a new Team Vicar, to work on newly agreed missional priorities with the Team Rector, colleagues and people across the two churches. I hope that you will find in this brochure and other papers prepared by the parish a sense of the opportunities for growth in your ministry and your own discipleship, and that you will be able to perceive whether you are being called to take further this process of discernment. If you wish to have an informal conversation with me about the Team Vicar (0.5) role, I would be glad to hear from you. Likewise, Steve Proudlove will be more than happy to discuss the Ministerial Development (0.5) role too.

With all good wishes and prayers as you discern if God may be calling you here.

Yours in Christ,



Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon, Diocese of Leeds