



Chaplain – Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities

**2 Year Fixed-Term Contract
(with the potential for continuation)**

Voluntary

Context

The Diocese of York is seeking to appoint a Diocesan Chaplain to the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) Communities. This is a voluntary (unpaid) position for an ordained person, offered on a fixed-term basis for two years. At the end of this period, the role description will be reviewed.

This is a significant opportunity for someone with a deep passion for mission, pastoral care, and championing communities who often face marginalisation, discrimination, and misunderstanding. The Diocese already benefits from excellent work with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people, and this new chaplaincy role aims to enhance, coordinate, and raise the profile of this ministry.

Role Purpose

To support, develop and grow ministry with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities across the Diocese of York; to build trusting relationships; and to help the wider Church better welcome, understand, and celebrate the lives, faith, culture, and contributions of GRT people.

Key Responsibilities

Pastoral and Missional Work

- Coordinate ministry among Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities within the Diocese of York, working collaboratively with – and with the consent of – parish incumbents.
- Offer pastoral support including prayer, trailer blessings, listening, visiting, and spiritual accompaniment.
- Build and maintain trusting relationships with GRT individuals and communities, being present, visible, and accessible.
- Pray regularly for and with GRT communities.

Supporting Parishes and Clergy

- Support and advise clergy, readers and lay ministers to ensure Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people feel welcomed, valued and included within parish life.
- Help parishes ensure GRT people can access church services, sacraments and pastoral provision.

Strategic Development

- Help shape the future direction of GRT ministry across the Diocese.
- Work closely with the Racial Justice Advisor and the Racial Justice and Intercultural Ministry Task Group, which will oversee and animate this work.

Advocacy, Education and Awareness

- Inform and educate the wider diocese about GRT culture, values and experiences, and help challenge racism, discrimination and harmful stereotypes.
- Promote positive stories of GRT faith, life and heritage, working alongside the Diocesan Communications Team.

Partnership Working

- Develop strong networks with others engaged in GRT ministry, including:
 - York Travellers Trust
 - GRT Churches and Christian leaders
 - Other diocesan GRT chaplains within the Church of England and ecumenically
 - Local authorities, charities and community groups where appropriate
- Work collaboratively with the Diocesan Board of Education to support relationships between parishes and schools with pupils from GRT communities.

Oversight and Support

The postholder will be supported and guided by:

- **The Racial Justice and Intercultural Ministry Task Group**, which will oversee and coordinate diocesan work relating to GRT chaplaincy.
- **The Diocesan Racial Justice Advisor**, who will collaborate particularly on education, training and strategic development.
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Terms of Appointment

- **Status:** Voluntary (unpaid)
- **Term:** 2 years (with review after completion)
- **Eligibility:** Ordained clergy

- **Compliance:** This role is subject to the House of Bishops Guidance on Safer Recruitment and People Management, including DBS and safeguarding requirements.

Who This Role Would Suit

This chaplaincy would suit an ordained person who:

- Feels called to serve marginalised or misunderstood communities.
- Has a heart for reconciliation, bridge-building and intercultural ministry.
- Is committed to racial justice and challenging discrimination.
- Enjoys partnership working and encouraging others in ministry.
- Can listen deeply, act sensitively and be a consistent, trusted presence.