

House for Duty Priest in Charge of St Michael's Westgate Common, Wakefield

I am delighted that you are considering the possibility of serving as the next House for Duty Priest in Charge of St Michael's Westgate common. St Michael's is a committed, welcoming and diverse church in the modern catholic tradition, who desire to be a church where people can encounter the presence of Christ, faith can be nurtured and deepened, the sacraments are celebrated with reverence and joy, and the Gospel is shared with compassion and confidence. Worship is Eucharistic; vestments are worn and incense is regularly used.

St Michael's is a single-church city centre parish within the Wakefield Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds, being part of the Deanery of Wakefield. The building is approximately 170 years old, sited at the centre of a busy traffic junction, and is in need of some repair/refurbishment. The adjoining church hall is the base for Wakefield District City of Sanctuary, with which the church has a strong relationship, and it is important that refurbishment of the premises is done in partnership with them.

The church's congregation is keen to move forward into its next season, learning and growing together. They are hoping that their new Priest in Charge will get to know the congregation and local community, share in their lives and walk alongside them in faith. They seek someone who will encourage them to be more confident in using the gifts God has given them, and who will work with them to develop new opportunities for mission and outreach.

The Priest in Charge will need to build good relationships with local schools, welcoming children into St Michael's as well as going into schools to take assemblies and the like when invited. As part of the congregation's desire to grow mission and engagement, this might involve developing new styles of worship which are tailored particularly to children, young people and families.

Our Diocesan Vision is to nurture and equip confident followers of Jesus who will tell and live out the good news of Christ, grow the church and transform their communities. In appointing to this post, we are looking for someone who has a joyful and confident faith with a track record of enabling the ministries of all baptised followers of Jesus, effective ministry among children and young people, growing churches and positive community engagement. They will ideally have experience of ministry in diverse contexts and will be an inspiring leader who can work with the congregation of St Michael's to develop new missional opportunities and foster whole-life discipleship.

Our particular priorities for the new Priest in Charge are to:

- grow the church in discipleship, mission and numbers;
- work with City of Sanctuary both to support their work with refugees and asylum seekers and to make best use of the church and hall buildings;
- develop outreach to the local communities, particularly given the challenges of the church's location in the centre of a roundabout;

- grow the church's worshipping community younger, including through engagement with local schools.

The new Priest in Charge will find colleagues in the deanery and in the wider episcopal area to be friendly, enthusiastic and supportive in sharing the joys and challenges of ministry. Although I may not know you by name at this point, please be assured of my prayers for all exploring this opportunity and for the discernment process to appoint the next House for Duty Priest in Charge of St Michael's Westgate Common.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a small cross symbol followed by the name 'Malcolm' in a cursive script, with a horizontal line underneath.

Bishop of Wakefield
3rd May 2026