

Parish Profile

For the post of
Associate Minister



Archdeacon's Foreword



Jane Bakker
Archdeacon of Plymouth

Plymouth 2035 is an ambitious project to bring transformation to the Church of England across the city. Spanning the next decade, it will bring new life to mission and ministry in Plymouth. This role offers an exciting opportunity to be a part of reshaping the church in the north of the city.

The Forder Valley Mission Community spans a large area to the north east of the city. It encompasses several different communities and a wide variety of possibilities. For example some areas, like Leigham, have seen little engagement with the church. Other parts, like Eggbuckland has church much more embedded in local life. Estover is a large suburban estate that sees good community links to Christ Church. Each area has its own identity, opportunities and challenges. The role

of Associate Minister in the Forder Valley makes real the possibility of reaching the range of communities across the Mission Community.

The ministerial team is ambitious, energetic and willing to try new things. The churches they serve are missionally minded, welcoming and ready for new challenges. They are praying for an Associate Minister who will bring dynamism and creativity to the team with a heart for missional and social engagement.

The Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison was made Bishop of Exeter in November 2024, and since his arrival has been developing the Diocesan Vision. +Mike says: "the Diocese of Exeter's vision to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people of

Devon with joy has evolved over the last five years, with a widespread post-pandemic listening consultation leading to the development of the 'Next Steps' strategy to support mission communities to flourish and be sustainable for generations to come. It's a vision that fits with Jesus' commission in Mt.28.16-20, which is authoritative for me and I'm sure for many.

Putting flesh on the bones of the vision, I would like to articulate five particular priorities for this next season of our life together. First, **Missional Leadership**: equipping and resourcing the ordained and lay leaders of our Christian communities as best as we can to develop disciples and make new disciples. Second, developing a **"Missional DNA"** across our Christian communities, encouraging

Archdeacon's Foreword



outward-looking, invitational churches, hospitable to outsiders and engaged with their wider communities. Third, cultivating an intentional **Vocational Culture** so that we are not asking whether God is calling me/us, but “To what is God calling me/us now?” Fourth, **Children & Young People** being placed at the heart of our life, mission and ministry. And fifth, a **Mixed Ecology**: understanding that we need different ways of doing and being Church. Alongside time-honoured Church we need all sorts of Christian communities which can engage with the 95% of our population who are as yet unengaged. I hope that these five priorities will become embedded at every level of our ministry going forward.”

Further information regarding our Diocesan Vision can be found at

<https://exeter.anglican.org/who-we-are/vision-strategy/>

We aim to be a diverse and truly representative diocese, and particularly welcome applications from women and those from black and minority ethnic groups. Not only is Plymouth a great place to call home, but the Diocese of Exeter is a great community of which to be a part.

If you would like more information about this post, do please be in touch for an informal chat with me or with Tatty, the Rector.

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Plymouth 2035



James Grier
Bishop of Plymouth

Now is an especially good time to be considering a post in the city of Plymouth. It is one of the most underrated travel destinations in the world and the UK's best city to live and work in. As if that weren't enough, during 2025, we are launching Plymouth 2035. This is our vision and strategy for the next decade for Anglican mission and ministry in the city.

One of the key aspects is that we want to see 2035 more new disciples belonging to our churches in the city. This will roughly double our attendance. We also want to commit to having churches across the city which offer life in all its fullness – practically, emotionally and spiritually – to every parishioner, not predominantly those who faithfully attend. We are hoping to secure national funding to make the vision a reality, but we will pursue it whatever. As part of this we are looking for clergy and laity to be bold and willing to step out in faith for what can be, without abandoning what has been. We are praying for greater unity and partnership across the churches and communities.

In the coming months, 10 stipendiary posts will be vacant, which opens up all sorts of possibilities. That means if God

is calling you to this post, you will be part of a wave of new ministers joining as we begin this next chapter for the city and God's kingdom. You will also be joining with wonderful, committed lay people and priests, who have been faithfully serving and preparing the ground over the years.

Plymouth 2035 is centred on some Bible verses and a prayer. The verses are from Acts 20:32-36 – with 20:35 at the centre.

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified... we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.”

Plymouth 2035

We recognise that Plymouth 2035 is going to be costly for many of us, and so this verse offers a great reminder that we live sacrificially and helping the weak isn't an optional part of our faith. I also love the fact that it sets it in the context of Jesus' grace offering salvation and transformation for now and eternity. Oh, and it ends with all the people praying for it to happen.

Our prayer is bold and disruptive and is that of Sir Francis Drake, one of Plymouth's most famous people:

**Disturb us, Lord,
when we are too pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
because we dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely because
we sailed too close to the shore.**

**Disturb us, Lord,
when with the abundance
of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of the new
Heaven to dim.**

**Disturb us, Lord,
to dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas where storms
will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
we shall find the stars.**

**We ask you to push back
the horizons of our hopes;
And to push back the future**

**in strength, courage, hope, and love.
This we ask in the name of our Captain,
who is Jesus Christ.**

Amen

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile and please do get in touch if you would like to chat to me further about this post or Plymouth 2035.

**James Grier
Bishop of Plymouth
bishop.of.plymouth@exeter.anglican.org**



Thank you
for your
interest in
this post.

We hope that this profile will excite you. Plymouth is a vibrant city with three universities and a thriving arts scene. Our parish benefits from all a city offers, alongside proximity to ancient woodland, Dartmoor and the coast.

You would be joining us at an exciting time, to a team who will support you and nurture your gifts and talents, serving lovely communities.

As you will discover, there is much to do, and a lot of variety offered in this role.

Churches in our deanery are also part of a strategic grant bid 'Plymouth 2035', with the hope of securing additional resource for us working together in partnership. As such we are committed to working together for the common good.

Over the last few years, we have been working hard to develop relationships and partnerships with other organisations in our area. These include Plymouth Youth for Christ who facilitate our youth group; Transforming Plymouth Together who have enabled us to set up a Hygiene Hub for the area and find us funding for holiday activities; The Pursue Network who lead our contemporary worship service; and Barnardo's who currently offer a stay and play at Christ Church.

Last year we undertook a community consultation that has helped us refine our priorities. We have also strengthened our PCC so that it is more representative and members now have a greater sense of sharing the strategic oversight of the church.

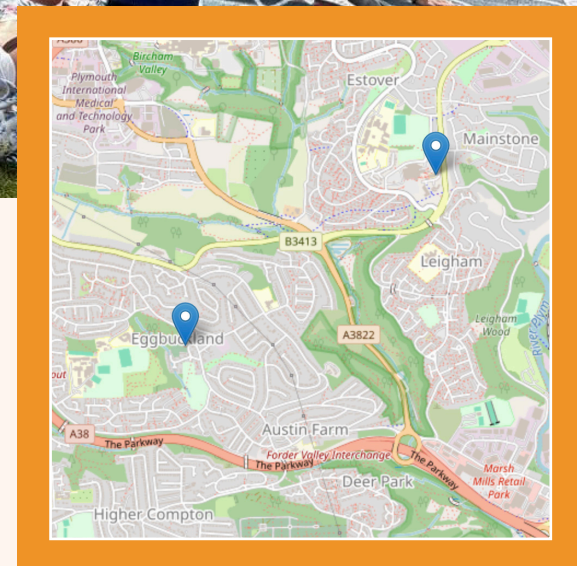


About us?

We are currently two churches, St Edward's Eggbuckland, and Christ Church Estover. We are situated in the north-east outskirts of Plymouth serving a large area including ten schools, Plymouth Marjon University, Derriford Hospital, and several distinct localities separated by large roads.

Within the clergy team are the incumbent Tatty Wilson, Ann Hosking an associate priest who also has a diocesan role supporting self-supporting ordained clergy, and Claire Hendy a first-year curate. In addition, we have two retired clergy who have offered us additional support through this vacancy, Roger Williams and Rob Jones. A number of lay people also lead worship and give talks.

Our churches describe themselves as open evangelical and gently charismatic. Within the clergy team there are different feelings towards offering Prayers of Love and Faith. Tatty is very open and happy to offer these. Discussions about using these prayers have happened at Christ Church but not yet at St Edward's where the congregation is more divided on this matter. Neither church had previously engaged with the Living in Love and Faith consultation process.



Meet the clergy team



Rev Tatty Wilson



Rev Ann Hosking



Rev Claire Hendy



The parish includes areas of differing socio-economic groups, and people speak of their communities with great affection, often staying locally for some time. For families experiencing poverty there are additional challenges being far from the centre of Plymouth, and Estover has become a priority area with a new Wellbeing Hub established next to Christ Church.

As a mission community we are responsible for four buildings, two of which are church buildings: St Edward's Church with an adjacent Church Hall, Christ Church Estover and Leigham Hall. There is

a programme of improvement for each of these buildings. We have recently added a servery to Christ Church and refurbished the St Edward's Hall Kitchen. There has been extensive work to St Edward's Church's tower and plans are afoot to improve Leigham Hall in the new year.

We have particularly close links with our two Church of England Primary Schools, St Edward's and St Matthew's, and there are plans to start a mid-week Forest Church at St Matthew's in 2026. Plymouth Marjon University has a Church of England Foundation, and we have close links with them also.





Our current offer

In recent months we have had more families with children attending church but not necessarily on a weekly basis. We are very encouraged by this and hope that this will build momentum over the coming months. We try to include children in all our services as well as offering additional activities.

St Edward's

- Sunday: **10.00 Holy Communion**
11.30 Bubble Church
(with puppets) 2nd Sunday
- Monday: **Eddybears Stay and Play**
- Wednesday: **Community Café**
- Monthly: **Prayer Breakfast**
- Monthly: **Green Fingers**
(community gardening in the church yard – we have a Rocha Silver Award)

The majority of our occasional offices take place here and the church has an open churchyard.

Christ Church

- Sunday: **10.30 Sunday Service with Children's Activities**
18.00 Breathe Contemporary Worship 3rd Sunday
- Monday: **18.00 Youth Group**
with Plymouth Youth for Christ (twice a month)
- Thursday: **12.00 Study Group**

Christ Church used to be in a formal ecumenical partnership and retains some of its ecumenical flavour. It hosts Roman Catholic and Indian Orthodox church communities who meet on Saturdays.

We intend to open this church and Leigham Hall for healing prayer in the near future.

Schools

- **Weekly Collective worship for St Edward's and St Matthew's.**
- **Governor roles for St Edward's, St Matthew's and Eggbuckland Vale Primary School.**
- **Termly Assemblies in Community Schools.**
- **Schools use our Churches for key festivals, and we support RE Lessons when asked.**



Our priorities ?

Church Action Plans

Last year we undertook a community consultation over several months, starting with the wider community, those with loose connections with our churches, and church members themselves. From this we have developed our current priorities and are in the process of forming teams to help us pursue each priority.

1. Encourage everyone to be part of at least one team and to grow team leaders.
2. Continue to foster a culture of prayer that underpins all we do.
3. Strengthen sung worship and music in services.
4. Develop all age services well.
5. Strengthen pastoral care, especially for the housebound.
6. Offer short, themed courses each term.
7. Build in 'whole church family' activities through the year.
8. Recruit an Associate Priest.
9. Build in a reflection cycle and culture – not everything we try will work.



As part of the Diocese of Exeter our aims are to work towards seeing a Christ-centred, loving, creative and relevant Christian presence in every local community.

To focus our activities on the three diocesan priorities of:

- **Growing in prayer**
- **Making new disciples and**
- **Serving the people of Eggbuckland, Estover, Derriford, Mainstone, and Leigham with joy.**

We recognise that our strategy needs to be two-fold:



Deepening faith

encouraging people in their journey of faith and deepening their connection to God.



Extending community

partnering and building community; being a blessing in our locality.



Mission Action Plan

1. **Strengthen ways for those loosely connected to church to join** e.g. Community café, stay-and-play, youth group, baptism families and wedding couples.
2. **Create new places of spiritual connection for the community** e.g. Healing Prayer, Mid-week 'church' at Leigham, Assemblies and RE support, School Church (midweek) at St Matthews, Community Choirs for both churches for festivals in partnership with schools.
3. **Create great first points of contact with the church through strengthening partnerships, establishing new traditions, being creative, collaborative and fun.** E.g. Christmas Tree Festival, asking schools and groups to help decorate our churches at key times, long table meals, concerts, holiday activities, open invitations to things we love doing already (E.g. Walk/pub lunch, gardening, quiz nights, crochet), Narnia children's party, escape rooms, St Edward's Friends' Group).
4. **Be mindful of the most vulnerable in our community and create places of inclusion.** E.g. Youth club for home-schooled young people, stronger links with our special schools, home visiting and resources for the isolated, low-cost activities for the financially vulnerable, (chaplaincy support in secondary schools if we can secure funding), second hand clothes swaps. Robust safeguarding underpinning all we do.

Person Specification:

We are looking for someone who is:

Creative and missional at heart

We recognise that God goes before us, and we are joining in His mission. The majority of our time and focus is outward focused and making new connections. We are keen that we are context-specific in our approach and describe this as improvising with the Holy Spirit.

Passionate about prayer, worship and discipleship

We recognise that prayer needs to underpin all we do. We have partnered with other churches to set up a prayer room at Christ Church Estover last year and hope to build on this going forward. Part of our mission strategy is offering 'healing prayer' for the wider community in Leigham and Estover during the week.

Our community consultation made it clear that sung worship is really valued in both our churches and we are hoping to develop this by drawing down funding to work with our school communities and churches for key festivals. We have live music in most of our services but not all at Christ Church at the moment.

There is not a culture of meeting in people's homes and one of our challenges

we are working on is supporting the discipleship of those with low levels of literacy and of building better pathways to faith for those coming for christenings and weddings.

Out-going, up for fun and taking risks

Much of our work involves making new connections and building relationships and of creating positive experiences of church.

Able to recognise and nurture the gifts of church members

We have a number of volunteers within our church communities but hope to develop this further, so that lay members feel that they can lead with confidence.

Open to a role with lots of variety

This role involves working across a range of contexts, ages and locations. It will suit someone who enjoys variety and is comfortable communicating to groups of different ages and sizes.

A team player who can lead on aspects of church life

You will sometimes be expected to lead and sometimes to support. We believe working as a team improves what we do and adds further capacity.

Passionate about working in schools and in different contexts

Given the considerable number of schools in our parish, it is inevitable that a significant part of your role will include working alongside these communities. We are fortunate that we have open doors to most of our schools, and your role will add to our capacity to do more.

In addition to planting a mid-week worshipping community at St Matthew's we also hope to do the same in Leigham Hall. This will give us the opportunity to do something different and complementary to what we already offer.

Inclusive in outlook

Our churches include people with a range of needs and vulnerabilities. Claire Hendy is our inclusion champion. When working with other partners we have open conversations about the pastoral care of LBGTQI+ people and want to create a place of safety and welcome.

A full driving licence and access to a vehicle

Given the size and geography of the parish it is essential for you to be able drive.

How we will support you

We are committed to supporting you to thrive and are committed to your development. Plymouth 2035 and the wider Diocese will give you opportunity for continuing professional development and where you have a particular passion or skill, we will try to give you an opportunity to use it.

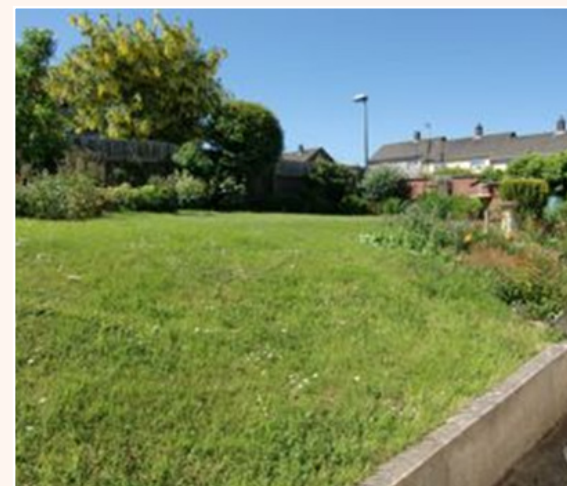
As a team we look out for each other and try to support each other as best we can. We have regular team meetings, plan and reflect together.

Closing Date
23rd October

Interviews
10th and 11th November

The Vicarage

Is in Inchkeith Road, Southway PL6 6EJ
It is 4-bedroom house with a family bathroom, study and downstairs WC separate from family living space. There is a good-sized garden, garage and parking. The house benefits from PV Solar panels.



Deepening **faith**
Extending **community**

fordervalley.org



Serving the people of Eggbuckland, Estover,
Leigham, Derriford and Mainstone