

Hereford Benefice of St Martin's, South Wye with St Peter's, Bullinghope

We are a large Benefice with a strong sense of belonging. Our adjacent parishes are situated on the southern fringe of the historic city of Hereford, close enough to benefit from all that this vibrant city offers but rural enough to enjoy the picturesque countryside.

Our new Priest should place a high value on the presence of both churches within our respective communities and be actively seeking ways to engage those outside the regular congregation. They should be willing to work ecumenically in ways which encourage our membership of the wider church, supporting our LifeLink Chaplain in The Hereford Academy and the local community. Although the needs of St Martin's Church and St Peter's Church, are distinctly different, they share the same Clergy, united by a shared vision and a deep love for our community. Together, we are seeking a priest who will walk with us as we grow in faith, mission and service.

St Martin's Church is situated in a large urban area of established traditional housing. Our regular congregation of about 40, mainly elderly individuals appreciate our traditional weekly services of Sung Eucharist, accompanied by our resident organist. At present the Clergy robe for services. Our wider community responds to traditional parish ministry providing a wonderful opportunity for an experienced priest to lead and pastor its congregations. However, we are open to varying types of worship, focussing outwards to our wider community with pastoral visits.

St Peter's Church, in the small village of Bullinghope, has a small but regular elderly congregation of less than 10 for the two regular services each month. The parish also includes urban areas around the city boundary. The industrial estate in Rotherwas, within the boundaries of this parish, is a large reservoir of potential with an exciting opportunity for growth. If you're a prayerful, experienced collaborative priest with a heart for people, discipleship and rural ministry, we'd love to hear from you.

We are praying for a Parish Priest who:

- Has been selected at incumbent level, theologically and liturgically competent, with a good solid foundation in pastoral ministry;
- Is grounded in prayer and scripture and will bring joy, humour and preaching to life;
- Has a keen sense of the importance of the nurturing of gifts and discipleship in others;
- Is persistent in the face of challenge, possessing a good sense of humour and able to develop a connection with the congregation;
- Is open to and encouraging the congregation's ideas and views ;
- Is a good listener
- Is able to advise and assist our Pastoral Leaders, including undertaking home and hospital visits around the Parish;
- Demonstrates collaborative ministry, working together with the PCCs to provide important pastoral care;
- Is family orientated and able to encourage congregational involvement of all ages;
- Will be a visible and meaningful presence, both in church and across our local communities;
- Will train, support and nurture laity who assist clergy during Sunday services;
- Is warm and friendly, welcoming, encouraging new volunteers;
- Will be experienced in co-ordinating the management of people and resources;
- Understands property management including lettings;
- Has the capability to prioritise and focus on key matters;
- Will chair PCC meetings, providing guidance, support and encouragement;
- Is able to delegate and devolve responsibility, keeping people to account for their areas of responsibility;
- Possesses an understanding of Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults;
- Possesses a good understanding of financial issues, procedures and accountability.