

BENEFICE PROFILE: HERMITAGE TEAM

For the appointment of a new
Team Vicar

WELCOME FROM OUR TEAM RECTOR *REVEREND NICOLA HULKS*

A few months ago, I was in your position looking at a profile and wondering if this could be the right place for me. A few months in and I can confirm that the parishes here in the Hermitage Team are everything I thought they would be; warm, welcoming and full of potential.

Together we have an ambitious vision to see our churches thrive in the centre of our village communities. We long to see our churches full of all ages and we are building strong relationships with our local schools.

The opportunities here for ministry are rich and diverse, so whether you have a passion for pastoral work or a gift for youth ministry, there are ample opportunities to exercise your gifts in our communities.

We are seeking a Team Vicar who can join us in our vision for our communities, someone who loves God and will love our churches and people. From us you can be assured of our support, every step of the way, as you develop and lead out of your vocation.

So why not pay us a visit and see if we are the right place for you? Informal conversations and visits are very welcome. We'd love to meet you.

Nicola



INTRODUCTION

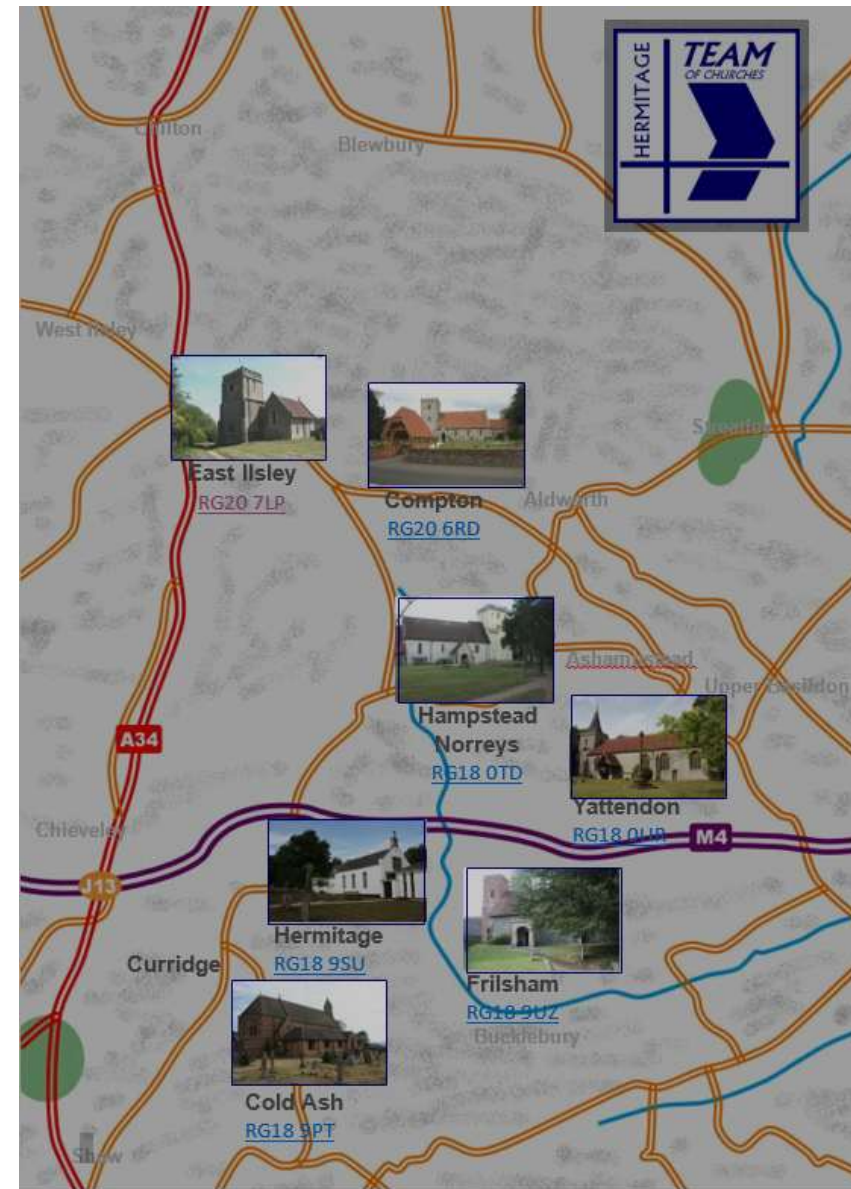
Welcome to the Hermitage Team and thank you for your interest in the role of Team Vicar for our parishes.

Our churches are unique, each with their own story, context and mission, but we work together collaboratively as one team to serve God here in rural West Berkshire.

As a team we are seeking an outward looking and missional Team Vicar to join our thriving ministry team and to help us grow our churches and serve our communities.

Within our team there is a wide range of opportunities for mission and ministry, and we will support our new Team Vicar to work to their strengths and flourish in their ministry here.

In the following pack you will find information about our churches and communities, our mission and vision and details of the role of Team Vicar in our parishes.



MISSION AND VISION

In recent years, our parishes have spent lots of time together reflecting on our mission and vision. As a team we share these common values and desires for the future that you, as Team Vicar, would have a vital role in supporting and shaping.

Outward Focussed Across our churches there is a range of outward focussed initiatives to help grow our church and support our communities. We want to see this grow and to see new initiatives flourish.

Centre of the Community We have a vision of our churches at the centre of our communities, where people meet to worship, for important moments in life and to build up community. We are redeveloping our churches, as needed, for this purpose.

For All Ages We long for our churches to be full of all ages. We are actively developing our links in our local Primary schools and in the Secondary School in Compton and seeking to initiate creative projects for children and young people within our communities.

Fresh Ideas We envision our churches and church halls being open and active in mission 7 days a week. We are seeking fresh ideas to engage our communities and seek a Team Vicar with vision to help enable, encourage and support us.

OUR CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES

The Hermitage Team is made up of seven church in rural West Berkshire. The communities we serve are:

FRILSHAM, St Frideswide

Within our team we are fortunate to have the unique and ancient pilgrimage site of St Fridewide's well, after which our parish church in Frilsham named. The church is a beautiful and deeply spiritual place on the edge of the small village of Frilsham which itself is recorded in the Domesday book. The church is open daily for visitors, we have a twice monthly house group and within the community we support a regular coffee morning and lunch club.



COLD ASH, St Marks

Within the thriving village of Cold Ash is our church of St Marks. We enjoy a central location in the village which is now home to over 4,000 people. Our community is blessed with two Primary Schools including St Marks CE Primary School directly opposite the church. Our church enjoys stunning views over the countryside and hosts a regular community coffee morning.



OUR CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES

YATTENDON, St Peter and St Paul

Based in the picturesque village of Yattendon is our church of St Peter and St Paul. Our church has a deep sense of history and spirituality that you feel as soon as you enter the building. The church is open daily for community access. A short walk from the church is Yattendon CofE Primary School, a thriving village school that we work closely with.



HAMSPTEAD NORREYS, St Mary the Virgin

In the heart of the village of Hampstead Norreys is the ancient church of St Mary the Virgin. Our community here offers a range of different styles of services as part of our worship and the church is open daily for the use of all. We are currently midway through an ambitious re-ordering project, Project Vision, to improve our church facilities. We also enjoy strong links with our local CofE Primary school whom we welcome for regular visits to church.



OUR CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES

HERMITAGE, Holy Trinity

Our church of Holy Trinity is located in the growing village of Hermitage, where our Team Rector is also based. Holy Trinity has a strong lay leadership team who, together with the ministry team, offer a range of styles of service including Café Church and Evening Praise services. The church also host a regular cuppa and cake afternoon at a local garden centre.



EAST ILSLEY, St Marys

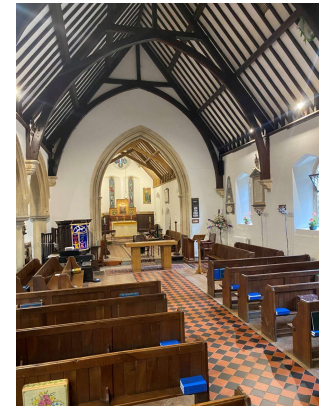
Our church of St Marys in East Ilsley is an historic 12th century church in the heart of the village. There are two services at East Ilsley each month with a small but committed congregation. The church is currently fundraising to reform the interior of the church to accommodate community events. As a church we are seeking to grow our relationship with our local school in the coming year.



OUR CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES

COMPTON, St Mary and St Nicholas

Christians have been worshipping on the site of our church, St Mary and St Nicholas, in Compton for over 1,000 years. Compton is a lively and close-knit community and is the home of Parababble Puppets, our team's Puppet Ministry. We currently run a variety of services each month and regularly hold missional events in the village. We host a regular youth ministry called Light Squad, two weekly bible study groups and a weekly prayer group. We also have a choir, the Questors, who sing monthly at our services. Next door to the church you will find Compton C.E. Primary School, with whom we are developing strong links, and is also close by the Downs Secondary School.



OUR TEAM

Lay leadership is an important part of our ministry here in the Hermitage Team and we are supported by a strong team of Church Wardens. We meet as a team of wardens once a month. Our wardens are supported by their PCCs in each of our churches.

We are also blessed with five clergy with PTO and three LLMs who help us bring a full and varied programme of worship to each of our churches, with most churches having a service each Sunday. We meet as a ministry team each month to support each other and plan for upcoming events.

Find out more about our licensed team [here](#).



TEAM VICAR: ROLE OVERVIEW

We are seeking a Team Vicar with energy, enthusiasm with a strong faith and biblical knowledge that guides their life and ministry. We are seeking a team member who is outward focussed and enjoys building relationships within our churches and communities.

The role of Team Vicar will include areas of independent leadership. As Team Vicar you will share oversight of our churches, based on a strategic plan for mission and ministry developed with our Team Rector in the first year in post.

The diversity of the churches and communities we serve means that there are many different opportunities for mission and ministry in our team. Within the role of Team Vicar, we are keen to offer scope for development of your own calling and passions in ministry alongside the needs of our parishes.

Our team is blessed with a wide range of lay and ordained leadership including a team of Licensed Lay Ministers. We are looking for a Team Vicar who enjoys working as part of a team, values lay leadership and can support and develop others.

TEAM VICAR: ROLE DESCRIPTION

The role of Team Vicar will include:

- Managing a portfolio of independent leadership responsibilities across our churches as guided by the ministry and mission needs of our churches.
- Working alongside our churches to develop new missional initiatives to connect with our community.
- Valuing, encouraging and equipping lay leadership and discipleship.
- Building up our church communities and offering pastoral care and support to people of all ages.
- Building strong relationships in our communities including with key organisations such as our local schools and community groups.
- Leading worship, in a range of different styles, across our churches and encouraging new styles and forms of worship.

YOUR NEW HOME

We have two properties available for our Team Vicar which are both presented to a high standard. Both villages have excellent Primary Schools and Compton is also home to The Downs Secondary School. We would be happy to show you around both villages on a visit to our Parishes.

Compton Vicarage



Yattendon Rectory



ANY QUESTIONS?

We hope this profile has given you a flavour of what life is like here in the Hermitage Team. Of course, there is much more to discover as you discern whether we are the right place for this next stage of your ministry.

Other resources you may find helpful are:

Team Website: <https://www.hermitage-team.org.uk/>

Support available for clergy in the Oxford Diocese: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/ministry/>

Parababble Puppets - <https://www.hermitage-team.org.uk/parababble-puppets>

If you would like an informal conversation about this role or to arrange a visit, please contact our Rector, Reverend Nicola Hulks, at rector@hermitage-team.org.uk