



Buxton Team Vicar

Oversight of Chelmorton, Earl Sterndale and Taddington with responsibility for work amongst children across the Team

Full Time, permanent stipendiary role



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community
THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

Archdeacon's Welcome



I am delighted that you are interested in finding out more about this unique and exciting post. We are looking for an enthusiastic priest with a pastoral heart. Someone who will work collaboratively, bringing three new churches into the wider Team and offering oversight to them while also leading on work with children, young people and schools across the Buxton Team including offering Chaplaincy at the FE College.

There is significant potential for mission given the way the town acts as resource to the wider communities and is a centre of excellence for creative and performing arts. This role is ideal for someone with a background or interest in rural ministry and in children/ youth work.

We are praying for someone who will love people, recognise and seize opportunities, balance tradition and innovation, engage creatively and missionally, sustain existing church life, develop lay ministries and form new partnerships aiming in all things to bring new people to faith.

We are seeking a leader who can build confidence and skill in governance and strategic leadership. Someone who will inspire others to use their gifts and work in partnership to transform lives through growing church and building community. This role brings new churches into the existing Team under the support of a Team Rector. So, investing in relationship building, considering how best practice might be shared and determining what can be done together will be of vital importance to release energy for missional community engagement.

You will find a willingness and energy to look outward, to work in partnership with others and an aspiration to grow the churches through generous faith, courageous hope, and life-giving love. You will find supportive engagement from retired clergy, a small staff team and lay volunteers. Collaborative team working will be of fundamental importance.

At a pivotal time in the life of the Diocese of Derby, this role offers an innovative opportunity to work and model a new way of leading churches into growth through partnering across boundaries. Together we are committed to deepening relationships with God, serving our local contexts, challenging injustice and making new disciples.

So do read on and if you are wondering whether this might be where God is calling you, please contact me and request an informal conversation so I can answer any questions and we can begin exploring the possibility together.

Nicky Fenton

The Ven Nicky Fenton
nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org
Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales

Area Dean's Welcome



Buxton, along with Bakewell and Glossop, is one of the largest market towns within Peak Deanery. Set in the beautiful landscape of the High Peak it attracts significant numbers of visitors and resources the smaller local village communities especially Chelmorton, Earl Sterndale and Taddington.

Collaborative working is a feature of mission and ministry within the deanery, not only between the Anglican parishes but also with ecumenical partners. This post offers you the opportunity to provide leadership in proclaiming the 'good news' of the Kingdom of God, building community and seeing lives transformed.

Together we serve a rich diversity of contexts and resource mission and ministry across boundaries that will grow the Church.

As members of the Peak Deanery we seek to be welcoming and supportive, working through collegial relationships to sustain one another in ministry. You will be joining colleagues who understand your context and share your calling for this special part of God's world.

Revd Fiona Kouble
Assistant Area Dean, Peak Deanery

Our Vision

We are looking for a Priest with a heart for mission, who will lead on work with children, young people, families and schools across the Buxton Team, and develop and implement realistic mission and ministry plans for the three rural village churches of Chelmorton, Earl Sterndale and Taddington. Someone who will work collaboratively as part of a wider team, as well as delivering their own key responsibilities.

As a Team, we long to be better equipped to build on the missional opportunities to reach out to children, young people and families arising from the internationally renowned Arts Festival, the heritage of the spa town, tourism industry, the civic life of Buxton, as well as the more obvious connections with local schools, colleges and voluntary children and youth organisations. We look forward to being led, guided and supported in developing this key area of work.

We want to identify and develop the unique potential of each of the churches in the parish, and of the congregation members in the churches. Bringing three further churches into the existing team enables us to embrace and further develop the range of worship styles within and across the team.

We want our new Team Vicar to be visible, engaged and connected across the villages of Chelmorton, Earl Sterndale and Taddington in particular, but also known amongst the children, young people and families across the wider area.

We are seeking an enthusiastic, pastorally hearted, missional priest to work collaboratively with us to:

- hold delegated oversight for the three churches of Chelmorton, Earl Sterndale and Taddington and welcome them into the Buxton Team
- deepen relationships with God, embracing the churches' unique identities and distinctiveness while developing their worship and discipleship
- serve our local communities, forming and developing community partnerships
- make new disciples through forming new worshipping communities, challenge rural isolation and injustice, building on ministry to the farming community.
- create an efficient and sustainable model of governance
- lead on income generation, generous stewardship and financial resilience
- work collaboratively with the Team Rector, staff and volunteers within the Team
- lead the Team in growing younger, developing our work with children, young people, schools and households and offering Chaplaincy to the University of Derby Buxton Campus.



Existing Buxton Team

The Parish of Buxton with Burbage and King Sterndale has a population of 13,638 in 6,342 households located in the centre, west and south of the town. In the last census the population was 97.5% white, and 49.7% indicated themselves as Christian. There were 160 people on the 2024 - 2025 electoral roll. To the immediate north and east the remainder of the town lies in the Parish of Fairfield.

Six churches currently form our team parish: St Anne's, St John the Baptist and St Mary's in the town centre, plus Christ Church in Burbage, Christ Church in King Sterndale, and St James' in Harpur Hill. They are located across the town of Buxton and in adjoining communities. The PCC voted to request permanent closure of St James' Church in May 2025, due to its poor structural condition. Three other churches have requested to join the Team and a draft pastoral scheme has been formed seeking to bring them into the Team under the delegated oversight of the Team Vicar. The intention is that these churches will initially remain as parish churches with their own PCCs but that the Team Vicar will work with them to explore what sustainable mission, ministry and governance might look like into the future.

The Team Ministry was created in 1974, and currently includes three retired clergy with PtO, two Readers with PtO and the Buxton parishes employ two part-time administrators who offer support to the clergy, wardens and PSO. The last Team Rector left eighteen months ago. In the last year, with the guidance and leadership of an interim Priest-in-Charge, we have strengthened the governance within the parish, ensuring that the PCC, Standing Committee, Finance Committee, St Mary's Committee and other PCC Committees have Terms of Reference setting out roles and responsibilities, delegated authority, membership, and reporting. Parish news and information about activities at individual churches is circulated through a weekly newsheet and a monthly newsletter.

There is a Parish Centre on Bath Road in Buxton. This is the hub and administrative centre of the Team. It houses the Rector's and Vicar's office, and is staffed on five days a week by two paid part-time Administrators. In addition to producing weekly newsheets and service booklets on the large professional copier/printer, the office also holds current parish records and holds and maintains safeguarding records.

The Administrators play a key role in the smooth running of the team parish and co-ordinate church activities to avoid double booking of dates for worship, social or fundraising activities. We also have a paid Parish Treasurer, who is also a member of the PCC who efficiently looks after the parish finances.

Presently, we have a wide variety of users including an Over-60s Keep-Fit group, Martial Arts groups (Taekwondo, Kick-Boxing and Ju-Jitsu), Yoga, two Table Tennis Groups (U3A and a Parish group) and a Games Group. From September there will also be Baby Ballet in the centre.

Currently, this facility and its staff are funded entirely by the existing churches within the Buxton team. Moving forward, conversations need to be held between the Team PCC and the three other PCCs to discuss whether the new parishes wish to contribute to the support of the Parish Centre and pay in to use its services and staff.



Our communities

Buxton is a very special place, tracing its history through prehistoric limestone caves, a Roman settlement, elegant Georgian architecture and a Victorian park and gardens. The highest market town in England, it has a population of just over 20,000, with 63% aged 16-64 and 25% aged 65 plus; only 2% of the population is non-white (2021 census).

Famous for its spa water, which is bottled locally and sold worldwide, Buxton is also known for its Opera House and annual arts and music festivals which draw thousands of visitors and tourists every year. Visitors also use the town as a base to explore the Peak District National Park and attractions such as Chatsworth and Haddon Hall.

Local people work in the tourism, retail and leisure sectors plus limestone quarries, light industrial businesses, the Health & Safety Executive Research Laboratories and farming. Residents also commute to Stockport, Manchester, Chesterfield and Sheffield to work and study. These towns and cities are accessible by bus or train as well as by car, and Macclesfield is 20 minutes away for trains to London.

There is a wide variety of housing, from small terraced cottages and Victorian family houses to modern flats and residential estates, plus social housing and retirement flats. Buxton also has a range of nursing and care homes which provide care and support for elderly people. Two small local NHS hospitals deal with minor injuries and offer physiotherapy and other community services. Plans are being proposed to redevelop the town centre with a multi-million pound development.

The town has one infant, one junior, three primary and two secondary schools. St Thomas More School is a church school administered jointly by Derbyshire County Council and the Catholic Diocese. The University of Derby has a campus for students studying a range of vocational courses, based in the former Devonshire Royal Hospital in the town centre.

Buxton has a rich cultural life, in addition to the Opera House, the Pavilion Gardens arts complex, with two studio spaces, also hosts a film club and cinema. The Buxton Musical Society gives regular orchestral and choral concerts and Burbage has a award-winning brass band. There is also a strong tradition of popular music in town including acoustic, rock, pop and jazz.

The three parishes of Chelmorton, Earl Sterndale and Taddington lie just south of Buxton within the Peak District National Peak and are surrounded by a large number of farms and small hamlets. The surrounding area would be described as deep rural and is a beautiful landscape popular with walkers and tourists. Alongside farming, local industry includes quarrying, hospitality and tourism.



Ministry and mission

Church	USAA	USCA	IMD	Population
Existing Buxton Team	119	5	13.5	13,638
St John's	59	2	As above	As above
St Anne's	12	0	As above	As above
St Mary's	23	2	As above	As above
St James' Harpur Hill	0	0	As above	As above
Burbage	13	1	As above	As above
King Sterndale	12	0	As above	As above
Earl Sterndale	8	0	14.6	625
Chelmorton	3	0	18.5	512
Taddington	14	1	18.5	477

Within the 3 churches there is one retired clergy person with PtO, one LLM and one person training as an LLM. Each PCC has the relevant officers in place.

Worship Pattern

	Chelmorton	Earl Sterndale	Taddington
First Sunday	Eucharist	No Service	No service
Second Sunday	No Service	No Service	Holy Communion
Third Sunday	Morning Prayer	Evening Service	No Service
Fourth Sunday	Family Service	No Service	No Service
Fifth Sunday			

Parish Finances

	Chelmorton	Earl Sterndale	Taddington
Total Income	11,779	6,397.75	29,607
Total Expenditure	19,190	6,855.11	22,865
Unrestrictive reserves	7981	3,003.85	9,800
Restricted reserves	1674	6481.58	41,706
Common Fund ask	3742	2,027	9,132
Common Fund Paid	3742	470	0

St John the Baptist Chelmorton

St John the Baptist is the Parish Church for Chelmorton with Flagg.

At 1200 feet above sea level, Chelmorton is the highest parish in the Diocese of Derby and the highest church with a spire anywhere in England. It is built into the hillside at the top of the village of Chelmorton, with its historic listed field strip system, and this means that different parts of the church are built on different levels. The church has many internal features of historic interest and has a Grade II* listing.

The churchyard is well maintained, with regular cutting while maintaining a planned wildlife area, and recently volunteers have helped Peak Park wardens try to deal with Himalayan balsam spreading from adjacent land.

The congregation is very small but the villagers from Chelmorton and Flagg offer support and contribute to the financial sustainability of the church through fundraising activities such as the village festival and harvest auction.

The village population is changing with a couple of younger families having recently moved in, but the proportion of holiday cottages within the village is also growing.

The biggest question facing the church is that of sustainability into the future. What might a Christian presence within the village look like once the existing congregation are no longer able to be active within the church?





St Michael & All Angels, Earl Sterndale

The parish of St Michael and All Angels, Earl Sterndale, is a rural parish just south of Buxton, and lies within the Peak District National Park. The parish is geographically large, covering approx. 13 sq miles, but there are only 625 people living across a number of smaller hamlets, farms and the largest village of Earl Sterndale. The farming community are known to engage with Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy and it is recognised that the church needs to work alongside them in partnership, and not in competition to the valuable work they do. The only school in the parish is in Earl Sterndale, which is situated just across the churchyard, and the school make use of the church building.

The church building comprises a single square towered building, set within the churchyard. Originally Victorian, it was bombed at the end of the second world war and was partially rebuilt in the 1950's. There is a resilience about the building and the community that is reflected in the desire and tenacity to keep the church open as a place of worship and meeting space. There is one large open communal space, that offers much flexibility for worship and community use, along with a cellar, kitchen and toilet facilities.

We have faced challenges maintaining and keeping the building open and safe to use. Thanks to grants from Tarmac and Breeden Quarries, we have been able to replaster, redecorate, rewire, purchase tables and chairs and mowing and strimming equipment. Going forward, the church is in need of new front doors, work in the churchyard and secure storage for the church mowers to meet insurance and health & safety requirements. Alongside the path repairs, tree work and taming of some of the wilder areas and perhaps an area of wildness to encourage eco-diversity and honour creation might be considered.

Our worship is traditional, middle of the road and we have been sustaining an evening service once a month. There is currently no formal pastoral care team, but there are links to the Anna Chaplain who is based in the next parish, and Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy regularly attend the bereaved and elderly in the village. As a close-knit community, we are able to support individuals on a personal level, as friends and neighbours, rather than formally through the structures of the church. We would describe ourselves as a friendly, welcoming church with a can-do attitude. The village Methodist Chapel has recently closed, and it has been pleasing to see some of their number joining services in the church recently.

The church building closed for worship several years ago and the community gathered together and reopened the church. Consequently there is a really strong network of pastoral relationships and good community engagement. Activities and events are possible because of the army of supporters, not to mention fabulous bakers, who help out and attend fundraising and social events. These include an annual flower festival, Saturday coffee mornings in the warmer months, regular prize bingo, and Christmas and spring fairs. We have also held pig racing, pie and pea suppers and whist drives. The Christmas Carol Service is hosted jointly by the church, Parish Council, and newly formed village committee. This involves lighting and blessing the village Christmas Tree, lessons and carols in church with Dove Holes Brass band, and refreshments. This attracts well over 100 parishioners, and is evidence of green shoots, and a living faith in this parish. Having built lots of good relationships within the community, the next steps need to be sowing seeds of faith, nurturing discipleship and having people to deepen their relationship with God through corporate worship.





Taddington

Taddington is a small Saxon linear village on the limestone plateau in the centre of the Peak District National Park, halfway between the market towns of Buxton & Bakewell. Situated at over 1,100 feet ASL, it is set amongst some of the most scenic landscape in the country.

The main centre of population in the parish is the village of Taddington along with the neighbouring hamlets of Priestcliffe, Blackwell and Brushfield, and the parish has a population of 501 (2021 Census). The majority of people are economically active, with a high proportion of skilled tradespeople, self employed and professional occupations. Roughly a quarter are over the age of 65. Farming also remains a significant part of the local community. According to the 2021 census, three fifths of residents describe themselves as Christians, with most of the rest saying they have no religion.

Taddington has a popular village pub, serving wonderful food and beer, and is a great social hub for local people. The Village Institute has a children's playground and organises weekly games afternoons along with a monthly Saturday café, film and music nights. It also hosts the local gardening club, Yoga, Taddington Ladies Club and various visiting speakers. Taddington is a very friendly and supportive community with a lot of practical and caring people who get things done!

Taddington Church was built in the 14th Century and has been described By Pevsner as "one of the prettiest and best proportioned churches in the Peak District". The building, which houses several very interesting artefacts, is well maintained and cared for by the PCC and a very supportive team of village volunteers. We have an excellent bell-ringing team; the bells and bell tower have recently been

refurbished to ensure safety and longevity. We have a really good working party for the maintenance of our large churchyard and also an inside cleaning team.

All these events and commitments show that St Michael's Church is a much valued and integral part of our village.

The church is still popular for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and burials and special seasonal services: Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival, Remembrance, Carol and Christingle. Our worship tradition would be described as traditional, middle of the road, primarily Common Worship. Before the vacancy our service times fluctuated from week to week, as we were part of a benefice of 10 churches. Moving forward we hope to be able to create a stable pattern of regular worship, including the eucharist and intergenerational worship.

In the summertime we put on our well established Well Dressing and Flower Festival. This attracts many visitors, both local and worldwide. This event brings the entire community together in a wonderful week of friendship, fun and hard work. It also raises much-needed revenue for our lovely church. We have recently introduced a Church Village Calendar which has been very successful, and are about to stage our first Christmas Tree Festival. During winter months, we have sometimes worshipped more informally in our Church Village Room, to keep warm and enable us to discuss our faith and learn from one another as well as praying and worshipping together. We also hold a Coffee morning there fortnightly as a way to support, strengthen and sustain those living in a rural community.

Moving forward, there is scope for further engagement with our Primary School.

The Children led Collective Worship for our Mothering Sunday Service, and this could be built on. We would love to see our small congregation and children flourish with regular and varied services to encourage and increase our worshipping congregation.



Earl Sterndale CofE Primary School

written by Sarah Humpleby, Headteacher

Earl Sterndale CofE Primary is a small, friendly school with a strong sense of community and care. Our vision is simple: every child matters and deserves the chance to thrive academically, socially, and personally. We place great emphasis on kindness, respect, and helping children grow into confident, thoughtful individuals. These values shape everything we do - from the way we teach to the way we support families - and make our school a place where children feel safe, valued, and inspired.

Although there has not been a vicar in place for some time, we have continued to maintain a positive link with the local church. The church building is an important part of our school life and is used for key celebrations such as Harvest, Christmas nativity, and other special occasions that bring our community together. Our church foundation governor plays an active role in supporting the school's ethos and ensuring our Christian distinctiveness remains strong. We also stay connected through diocesan updates and guidance, which help us keep our vision rooted in shared values.

Looking ahead, we hope to develop a vibrant and visible partnership with the next vicar. We'd love someone who enjoys working with children, values education, and wants to be part of our wider school family. Opportunities to lead assemblies, join in celebrations, and support our community projects would be very welcome. Above all, we're looking for someone who shares our commitment to helping children flourish and who will bring warmth, creativity, and a sense of joy to our partnership.

[The latest SIAMS Inspection Report \(June 2025\) can be found at https://www.earlsterndaleschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=384&type=pdf](https://www.earlsterndaleschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=384&type=pdf)



Taddington & Priestcliffe C of E Primary School

At the heart of our school lies our Christian vision: “We care about each other.” This simple yet powerful statement guides everything we do and reflects our mission to broaden horizons for every member of our school family. As a church school, we believe that education is not only about knowledge but about nurturing the whole child - spiritually, morally, and emotionally. Our Christian values of forgiveness, aspiration, respect, and resilience shape our daily life and learning. Each of these values is deeply rooted in the teachings of the Bible and helps our children to grow into compassionate, confident, and hopeful individuals. Together, we celebrate being a place where faith, kindness and curiosity are lived out every day.

Our partnership with the church is a true blessing and lies at the heart of our vibrant school community. We are immensely grateful for the support of Reverend Sue Bamping, who works closely with us to shape our shared vision for exploring faith within the life of our school. Sue helps to guide our Collective Worship Pupil Ambassadors, empowering them to develop their own vision for worship and to lead others with confidence and creativity. We are also lucky to work closely with Olwen Kirkwood who supports us in holding half-termly services at the church, bringing together the whole school and the wider village community in joyful celebration and reflection. It is always a special moment to see our children leading prayers, readings, and songs - not only in school services but also in key community worship events such as Mother’s Day, where their voices and faith light up the church.

As we look to the future, we are excited about deepening the bond between our school, church, and community. We hope to bring community worship into the heart of the school, making faith a living and shared experience for all. Our newly revamped Woodland Hub will play a key role in this, providing a beautiful, reflective space where children, families, and community members can connect with creation and with each other. We are also exploring ways to expand our support for the elderly and vulnerable within our village, offering companionship, service, and care inspired by our Christian calling. Together with our church partners, we will continue to ensure that faith and worship are not just parts of our curriculum, but the heartbeat of our community - celebrated, lived, and embraced by all.

Schools – Buxton Parish

Buxton Parish has the following primary schools within its boundaries; Harpur Hill Primary School, Burbage Primary School, Buxton Infants School and Buxton Junior School. None of these are church schools, but there are links with the schools, particularly through Christ Church Burbage and St John’s Church. Buxton Community School (11-18) is the secondary school in the parish.

There are also a C of E infant school, C of E junior school, Roman Catholic primary school and Roman Catholic secondary school (11-16) within the town, but these are in the neighbouring parish of Fairfield.



Role of Chaplain to the University of Derby – Buxton, as part of the University of Derby Chaplaincy Team.

University of Derby – Buxton

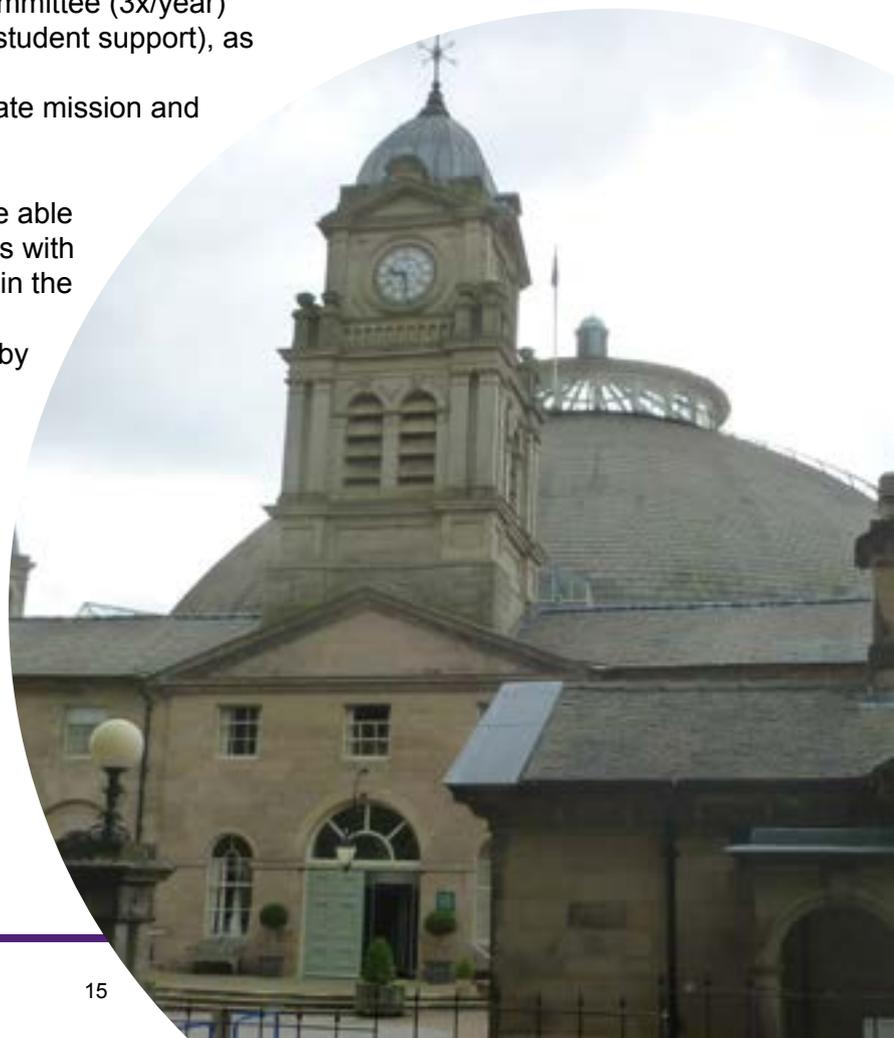
In 2005, the University of Derby opened its Buxton Campus based at the Dome, where students from the then Buxton College of FE studied alongside undergraduates and postgraduates. Shortly afterwards, the staff post of Chaplain for Buxton was created. Buxton College merged with Leek College to form Buxton and Leek College in 2012. However, Higher Education provision at Buxton came to an end in 2021, and with the transfer of the Leek campus to Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group in August 2025, there has recently been a rebranding as 'University of Derby – Buxton'. The campus offers further education and skills provision to a relatively small cohort of 16 to 18 year olds (there are fewer staff and students than at most secondary schools), many of whom are 'bussed in' from the surrounding area. This means that the life of the campus happens during normal working hours.

Role Description

The role of the Buxton Chaplain is primarily to be a visible expression of the Christian faith within the life of the campus, and it can be adapted to play to different strengths and interests, depending on the person's gifts. As a guide, it could include any or all of the following, but the expected commitment is for two hours each week on a flexible basis that fits around the academic year:

- Offer pastoral support for all staff and students
- Explore opportunities for expressions of faith, worship and prayer
- Be a point of information/advice/referral on matters relating to faith and belief
- Provide hospitality/campus events that build community
- Design and deliver classroom sessions about values and spiritual meaning
- Enable staff and students to engage with issues of social justice eg. Fairtrade
- Explore opportunities for inter-faith dialogue
- Attend the University's Pastoral Services Committee (3x/year)
- Liaise with relevant University services (eg. student support), as appropriate
- Liaise with the churches of the area to facilitate mission and ministry.

The person undertaking the role will need to be able to engage with the FE student cohort as well as with staff members in a variety of settings, and within the context of a secular, educational, multi-faith environment. As a part of the University of Derby Chaplaincy team, the Chaplain will be supported by and report to the University Co-ordinating Chaplain (Anglican), though this will be predominantly online as the main Chaplaincy provision is based in Derby





Housing

The Team Vicar's house is in Buxton and is adjacent to St Mary's church on Dale Road. It is a large modern four-bedroom house built in 1975 with two reception rooms, a kitchen, utility room, study, downstairs toilet and garage. There is a small garden area currently managed with established shrubs and bushes.

How to apply

Thank you for reading this profile.

We very much look forward to hearing from you and will be happy to supply any further information you may need. If you have any specific questions or would value an informal pre-application conversation then please contact: Ven Nicky Fenton, Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales
Nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org

The Diocese of Derby is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders and volunteers are expected to share this commitment. [Click here](#) for further information on our commitment to safeguarding. All appointments are subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks, including a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check. Your data is processed in line with our Privacy Notice.

If you have a disability or are neurodivergent, we encourage your application. We particularly welcome applicants from UKME /GMH backgrounds. All appointments will be made on the merit of skill and experience relative to the role.

Be assured you are held in our prayers as you discern whether God might be calling you to this role.