

## Vacancy in the Parish of Holy Trinity Ripon – Bishop's Letter – April 2025

Thank you for your interest in the post of Vicar at Holy Trinity Church, in the City of Ripon.

This is an exciting time to be in the Diocese of Leeds. This Diocese has recently celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, marking its creation from the former dioceses of Ripon and Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield. There is a growing appreciation of the ways in which the breadth of vision and depth of resources of a large diocese can support the ministry of parishes in our various contexts. We have also embarked on the Barnabas programme, supported by central funding, to encourage and enable clergy and parishes to be confident in our mission, in our future, in our leadership and our witness. There is much more to be found on the diocesan website at [Barnabas](#).

I arrived in the Diocese in 2023 and personally I have found an incredibly warm welcome, supportive colleagues and an enabling culture. There is a sense of 'youthfulness' in the structures which encourages creativity and innovation and is not hampered by deep seated tradition which can limit openness to change. Further, the unsettling journey of establishing a new organisation is now complete. In the Ripon Episcopal Area, as is the case across the Diocese, clergy and ministers are deeply committed to mission and ministry and appreciate the collegiality they enjoy with one another, working together to overcome challenges, develop vision and implement plans. In my opinion, and based on my experience, this is a very positive and hopeful time for someone to consider joining the Diocese of Leeds (or moving within it).

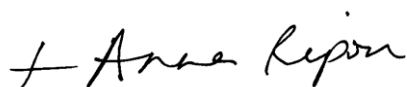
Ripon is an important city in the diocese and in the region. Its population is only c17,000 with the Cathedral and Holy Trinity as the only sizeable Anglican churches serving the 'retail centre' (around the market square) and surrounding homes, businesses, schools and other organisations. Its incredible history and heritage continue to influence the city's identity today, but there is, in my opinion, a need to discover afresh an identity and vision for this incredible city today.

The new vicar will work with the people of Holy Trinity to discern how God is leading them in this season, to love and to serve, but also, engaging with others locally, to support the city itself develop its identity and vision now and for the future.

Members of the congregation are committed and gifted in many areas of church-life and mission. They are warm hearted, evangelical and will welcome a new incumbent to lead them in worship, preaching, teaching, outreach and prayer. They have a particular passion for sharing the good news of Jesus in word and action with children and young people, especially in local schools and for loving into God's Kingdom, those who are finding life particularly tough. They also deeply value the good and active relationship they enjoy with their patron, Simeon's Trustees.

I hope that you will find in this brochure and other papers prepared by the parish a sense of the opportunities for growth in your ministry and your own discipleship, and that you will be able to perceive whether you are being called to take further this process of discernment. If you wish to have an informal conversation with me, I would be glad to hear from you.

With all good wishes and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Ripon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.