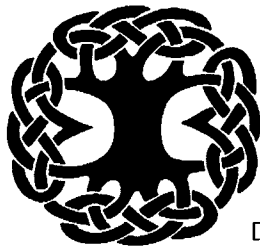


Walton Team Ministry vacancy for a Team Rector plus the inclusion of St. Luke's church in the Team

Through the time of discernment prior to, and during, the Interregnum, the Walton Team has been under pressure from the Deanery to split up. The churchwardens, PCC and people in the pews have resisted this, being very clear we want to remain together. This desire to be 'team' meant that when St Luke's went into Interregnum recently, the leadership at St Luke's and the Walton Team realised they would be better working together to create a joint clergy leadership team of Rector and Vicar. Both posts will be appointed to in 2023.



The tree image reflects the new working relationship of our 4 churches, equal in stature, working together, and with our deep roots in the community of Walton-on-the-Hill.

The changes at Parish level come alongside the wider changes in Deanery. It is hoped that the merger of Walton and North Liverpool Deaneries will mean a larger group of churches working together, able to pool resources and help the current Parishes grow and flourish.

There are very many opportunities for mission and ministry being explored already in the Parishes which will benefit from stable clergy support. The PCC and Alsop School have been jointly awarded a grant from the Growing Faith Foundation Partnerships to develop an education hub. A small team from St Mary's are also working with the local council to raise £250,000 to restore and develop the Old School House into a heritage community hub. To keep the momentum going on these projects, Rev Fiona Pennie will continue to be available to work with the Rector in these areas.

The Liverpool Diocesan vision is that 'We are asking God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference, so more people know Jesus and there is more justice in the world'. Within this context the diocese has identified four priority areas for work in mission this season they are;

Introducing people to God through Jesus Christ

Deepening discipleship, especially by means of our Rule of Life

Developing Christian leaders in every place

Working for justice

In conclusion, we in Walton are ready for a fresh start. The WTM PCC is becoming an effective body and over the next 12 months the Interim Transition Team (a smaller group made up of people from each church in WTM and now St. Luke's) will continue to drive the changes necessary. Their remit is to transition from a parish that was not working as it should, to a place where the running of the WTM and St Luke's day-to-day business is in order - giving time for the new Rector and Vicar to find their feet, to pray and to develop their own ministries is this special place.

There is one other consideration: there is a vacancy for Team Rector but there will shortly also be a vacancy for Team Vicar and this provides a rather unusual opportunity for clergy couples to apply to work in Walton-on-the-Hill.