

The Right Revd Robert Springett

Bishop of Tewkesbury

Bishop's Office

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Dear Candidate

Vicar for the Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor

Thank you for making enquiries about this vacancy – I hope you find the enclosed documents helpful in considering your application.

The parish of Cirencester with Watermoor has a significant place in the life of the Diocese, and a substantial civic and community impact. The last years have seen some important achievements, a growing confidence in the congregations, enhanced work with children and young people and the re-ordering of St John's. There remains however plenty of potential to be realised!

The community has a largely prosperous and settled feel but there are pockets of deprivation. There are proposals for the development of over 2000 new houses. The congregation is committed to reaching out and engaging more effectively with the wider community and it will be important for the new Vicar to work with them to enable this. There is a BMO operating in the town, 'The Upper Room', and I would expect that the new Vicar will work hard to build positive and supportive relationships, developing a greater sense of partnership and common purpose in ministry in the town.

There are two church primary schools which are very much integrated into the life of the parish but again there is significant potential to further enhance our diocesan vision to put schools at the heart of mission. Other educational links, again with excellent opportunities to develop the mission and ministry of the church, include two comprehensive academies and the Royal Agricultural University to which the parish has traditionally provided the Anglican chaplaincy.

The parish is formed by a sacramental spirituality with a Eucharistic, liturgical tradition and excellent music. It is not though stuffy and while the new Vicar will need to be at home in this tradition he or she will need also to be inclusive and adaptable! The parish welcomes and affirms the ministry of men and women in all three orders of ministry.

You will be part of a leadership team with the Associate Vicar, curate and active retired clergy, as well as a committed and articulate lay leadership who bring high level gifts and skills. I am very much looking for an experienced priest (whether through previous parochial leadership or that exercised in some other sphere), confident in themselves and willing to value and release the gifts of others, offering strategic, collaborative leadership to the parish with a vision for the Kingdom, who will relish the challenge of building up the body of Christ – from all age groups and backgrounds - to lead them in worship and mission.

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You will find good support in the deanery and wider diocese and I would expect that you will play an active part in our common life. This is an exciting time in the life of the Diocese of Gloucester where we are in the early stages of implementing our 'LIFE' vision process, focused around Jesus' offer of 'life to the full', rooted in John 10:10. <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/>. It is expected that the new Vicar will enable the church communities to engage with this vision adapting it to the particular circumstances of this parish. The accompanying document gives a little more detail about how this vision translates into the culture and values we are seeking to see grow amongst all those licensed to minister across the Diocese.

In summary for this ministry you will need to be a priest who is:

- Rooted in a generous catholic spirituality, the sacraments and the scriptures with a disciplined life of prayer.
- A strategic leader, able to understand the needs and opportunities of a significant market town.
- Mission minded and able to facilitate the growth of an outward looking, worshipping community.
- Able to work closely and imaginatively with the Upper Room BMO community.
- Pastorally aware and willing to build up positive relationships with all in church and community, and with ecumenical colleagues.
- Skilled at encouraging and releasing the gifts of others to develop the ministry of the whole church.

I hope very much that having seen the profile and read so far you will feel encouraged to apply and I look forward to receiving your application.

If you have any questions or want to know more please do not hesitate to contact the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, The Ven. Phil Andrew on 01452 835594 or 07498 052045 or by email at archdchelt@glosdioc.org.uk.

With all good wishes and thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Robert Tewkesbury." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Rt Revd Robert Springett

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