

Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor & Chesterton



<i>Vicar</i>	<i>In vacancy</i>
<i>Associate vicar</i>	<i>The Rev. Howard Gilbert</i>
<i>Assistant curate</i>	<i>The Rev. Katie Richardson</i>
<i>Assistant curate</i>	<i>The Rev. Julian Wilson</i>
<i>Churchwardens</i>	<i>Mr. Simon Smith and Dr. Rosalind Dolton</i>

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Parish website www.cirencparish.co.uk

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Thank you for your interest in the position of vicar serving this three church parish in Cirencester. The new vicar will be leading an enthusiastic team of lay and ordained individuals (licensed and retired), keen to see the parish active in the community and sharing, through words and actions, the Good News of the Kingdom. The parish includes the whole town, and is in the Cirencester deanery in the Diocese of Gloucester.

Our worship is informed by a sacramental spirituality with a Eucharistic, liturgical tradition and; music in the Parish Church of St John Baptist is led by our Director of Music. There are two other churches: Holy Trinity, Watermoor, (built in the mid-19th century), and the mission church of St Lawrence, Chesterton (built in the 1950s) and these are more flexible (less choral) in their worship. Our congregations contain a great mixture of people from different Christian backgrounds.

Cirencester is a market town with Roman origins and prospered on the back of the mediaeval wool trade. The population is about 20,000 although plans for new developments will increase this to around 25,000. It is popular with tourists, and has many local shops as well as the usual national stores. Although prosperous and scenic, there are significant pockets of deprivation and the local food bank is well used.

The vicar is involved in a number of local trusts and charities giving access to and dialogue with community groups. The vicar is also part of the civic activities: the parish church is very much the church of the town and its surrounding countryside.

The parish is a key player in the local council of churches, which includes the other main players in the town: Baptists, Methodists, United Reformed, Society of Friends, Roman Catholics, the 'New Life' church and various house churches. This council works reasonably well together and is involved in many of the Christian festivals showing a united front in their activities.

Besides the three church buildings, the parish has other buildings at its disposal, one of which houses the parish's administrative offices; others are rented out or used for clergy accommodation. The current Vicarage is felt to be an unsuitable building and is in the process of being sold, to be replaced by a more modern and more easily maintained building in the town; if required in the meantime rented accommodation will be found for the new vicar.

The parish has an Anglican Fresh Expressions church operating under a Bishop's Mission Order (The Upper Room), along with two church schools, and two chaplaincies - the local hospital and the Royal Agricultural University. Relationships with the university have strengthened in recent years and the RAU now holds its annual convocation ceremony in the parish church.

Our churches are used for community activities, including concerts, meetings, receptions etc. The two older churches are popular for marriages and baptisms.

Young people's work is active in the two larger churches, and both have a youth worker attached and an abundance of young families attending. In the parish church there are also youth orientated activities run by the youth worker during the week.

The Parish is challenged by demands of the Parish Share, Parish Giving and Mission. The PCC has been running a deficit on its revenue expenditure for over fifteen years. However, there are substantial capital reserves and funds for the maintenance of the church buildings.

We are looking for an individual who can see through the clutter of the institution and work to develop a coherent vision across the three churches to build the Kingdom, in terms of vibrant and imaginative worship, and in terms of reaching into this lively community with a message of hope.

We attach the Parish Profile which sets out more detail and data on the parish.