

Our ref: DB/06/18

June 2018

The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek

Bishop of Gloucester

The Bishops' Office

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Dear Candidate

Rector for the Benefice of Minchinhampton with Box, and Amberley

Thank you for making enquiries about this vacancy within the Diocese of Gloucester – I do hope you find the enclosed documents helpful in considering whether God might be calling you to come and join us in this exciting and challenging role in a beautiful part of Gloucestershire.

As you will note from the Parish Profile, the person appointed will be following quite a difficult period in the life of the benefice. However, whilst there is a work of healing to be embraced, this has already begun and there is immense hope, energy and expectancy about the path ahead.

As you will see from the parish profile, the successful candidate will have plenty of support from faithful lay leaders, a Reader, an SSM Associate Priest and a House for Duty priest who has particular responsibility for Amberley LEP. There is also a part-time administrator.

I am seeking to appoint a highly relational and collaborative leader who has the gifts of nurturing and enabling others to use and develop their own gifts so that everyone is able to fulfil their part in the body of Christ. They will also be a prayerful, compassionate, and approachable pastor.

I am looking for someone who has a commitment to deepening the spiritual life of individuals and the worshipping communities, but who also has a passion for enabling followers of Christ to engage with the hopes and concerns of the wider community and enable people to live out their discipleship among the people and places of their week.

There is a great opportunity to develop existing links with the two local church primary schools and to be proactive in shaping the youth ministry, not least in the wider community.

There is currently quite a complex leasing arrangement such that the Baptist Church uses part of Minchinhampton Youth Club building. The leasing arrangement comes to an end in 2020 and future options are being explored.

You will see from the profile that Minchinhampton with Box has had a serious problem with meeting their parish share in 2017 and 2018. Amberley have generously contributed a further sum to help with the deficit, and I am encouraged by the commitment of the churchwardens and PCCs who are committed to addressing the problem going forward. I am therefore looking to appoint a Rector who is not afraid of speaking about money and who is willing to inspire others regarding financial stewardship.

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In terms of setting a vision for the parish, this is an exciting time to be in the Diocese of Gloucester as together we are still in the relative early stages of implementing our 'LIFE' vision, focused around Jesus' offer of life to the full in John 10:10. <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/>. It is expected that in shaping a vision for the parish, the new Rector will enable the church communities to fully engage with the diocesan vision and in so doing will grow in their own experience of living this 'life to the full'. The accompanying document gives a little more detail about how this vision translates into the culture and values I am seeking to see grow amongst all those licensed to minister across the Diocese.

The benefice is part of the Stroud deanery and it is expected that the person appointed will not only find collegial support within the deanery chapter and synod but will also play a full part in those bodies. There are also plenty of opportunities to be involved in the wider life of the Diocese. 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 an application from you.

The Archdeacon of Gloucester is currently on sabbatical so if you have any questions or want to know more please do not hesitate to contact either myself by email: gtreweek@glosdioc.org.uk or The Revd Pat Freeth, Interim Acting Area Dean of Stroud: 01453 823890 .

With all good wishes and thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Rachel Gloucester:". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek
Bishop of Gloucester

Encl: 'Culture of Ministry' leaflet