

Our ref: DB/06/18

November 2018

The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek

Bishop of Gloucester

The Bishops' Office

2 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LR

bgloucester@glosdioc.org.uk

Tel: 01452 835511

Dear Candidate

Re: Priest-in-Charge of The Benefice of Lydney and The Benefice of Woolaston with Alvington and Aylburton

Thank you for looking at this vacancy and for considering making your home and offering your ministry in these parishes. It is a place where there is much going on already and where there is plenty of unrealized potential. The Parish of Lydney has recently completed a significant re-ordering project in St Mary's Church building under the strapline, 'Building a community where everyone matters...' This desire is central to both parishes' concern to be outward-facing churches. They are in good heart and have already found the vacancy to be a time of refreshment and of growing in their sense of unity and purpose even with the vacancy now being longer than expected due to not appointing the first time we advertised and interviewed. The worshipping communities are also aware of the challenges before them, and they are looking for a new Priest in Charge who will lead with inspiration and hope, enabling them to grow in faith and spiritual life, and to invite others to join in and live life in all its fullness.

The parishes are in the midst of the process of becoming one benefice, and the plan is to appoint a House-for-duty priest to live in Alvington once the new incumbent is fully settled in.

The town of Lydney is expanding fairly rapidly at the moment with a number of small new housing schemes. There are three well-attended Primary schools in the parishes, as well as the Secondary school which gathers pupils from many neighbouring villages. Building relationships with the Head Teachers and with the whole school communities will be an important priority.

You will have partners and colleagues in ministry here. There is an SSM Curate (locally deployed, and just completing her second year of Curacy) as well as a number of active retired clergy and readers who make very positive contributions to the life of these churches and communities. The parishes also have a part-time Administrator.

All of this means that I believe this is an exciting and important time of potential for the parishes in this area.

This post is being offered at a pivotal point in the life of the Diocese as our 'LIFE' vision shapes all of our mission and ministry. There are details to be found at <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/about/vision/>. It is expected that the new Priest in Charge will enable the church communities to fully engage with this vision. The accompanying document gives a little more detail about how this vision translates into the culture and values we are committed to developing as licensed clergy across the Diocese.

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The person appointed will find resources and support within the deanery chapter and synod and will also play a part in those bodies. The Roles and Responsibilities document will be of particular use in helping you understand this task.

I hope that having seen the profile and the supporting documents you feel encouraged to apply.

If you have any questions or want to know more please do not hesitate to contact the Revd Chris Maclay, Area Dean for a conversation on 01594 368558 or email chris.maclay@gmail.com. Applications should be returned to Alison Vlach, PA to the Archdeacon of Gloucester avlach@glosdioc.org.uk or by post to The Bishop's Office, 2 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LR by 12 noon on Monday 7 January 2019. Interviews will be held on Friday 1 February.

With all good wishes and thanks.

+ Rachel Gloucester:

Encs: