

October 2023

Dear Candidate

The Rt Revd Rachel
Treweek
Bishop of Gloucester
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Team Vicar in the Bishop's Cleeve and Woolstone with Gotherington and Oxenton Team Ministry

I am delighted that you are looking at this exciting post in the Diocese of Gloucester. This is a lively and active Team Ministry with a shared commitment to growing in faith, and to reaching out with the love of Christ to all ages, across the varied landscape that makes up the Benefice. The Parishes are in good heart and have been delighted to welcome their new Team Rector, the Revd Tim Garret, who joined the Diocese in January. Tim and the wider team of lay and ordained ministers are already building on the significant growth seen in the Benefice (and especially in Bishop's Cleeve) over the past decade. There is a clear emphasis on mission and evangelism across the Team, and I have been delighted to hear many stories of people coming to faith, not least through Alpha and associated events. Whilst St Michael's in particular has seen growth amongst those who would place themselves within the evangelical charismatic tradition, it is not the only expression of worship there or across the Benefice. Indeed part of the Benefice's strength lies in its diversity and the successful candidate will need to be able to work as part of a team that celebrates this diversity of traditions and contexts as well as seeking to build an even greater sense of unity across the Benefice.

We are currently engaged in an exciting deanery strategic planning process whereby every deanery has been working with an external facilitator to shape ministry, mission and the use of resources for the future, approached from a place of confidence and creativity rather than scarcity, and rooted in our vision of 'LIFE Together': www.gloucesterg.anglican.org/about/vision. This is supported by our Culture and Values for ministry at www.gloucesterg.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/cultures-and-values-of-ministry. At its heart we want to share 'the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ', so that all people may 'know life in all its fullness.' Anyone appointed to a post within this diocese needs to be enthusiastic about working collaboratively across the wider diocese, and to enable the deanery plan to be lived well as we join in with God's kingdom vision.

As we continue to do this, I wish to see a church landscape of ever-increasing varied configuration with new worshipping communities emerging in new and different ways alongside inherited ministry within parishes. This is a diocese which celebrates pioneer ministry, our schools, chaplaincies and Fresh Expressions of Church, and it has been wonderful to establish a new Church Army Centre for Mission located within Gloucester.

Continued/-

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Clergy who come to minister in this diocese need to be enthusiastic about being part of this changing landscape. It is also a diocese in which we want clergy to be nurturing people of all ages and backgrounds to live out their faith among the people and places of their week Sunday to Saturday. We are a diocese which has been strongly committed to implementing the recommendations of the 'Setting God's People Free' report, and are actively involved in 'Growing Faith'. Where there is a church school or church schools in the benefice, we expect the parish priest to be a foundation governor for at least one of them, and to work with the PCC to ensure other foundation posts are filled.

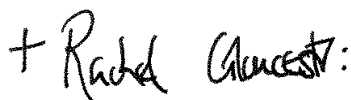
As we live this time of continued uncertainty across our country and world, it is important to underline that as a diocese we are living from a place of confidence, security and hope, and there is a deep commitment to the wellbeing of all our clergy. Furthermore, we are small enough to know each other well, to care across our traditions and rejoice in each other's gifts, while at the same time being large enough to be well resourced. You will find good support for your ministry from a dedicated team. Bishop Robert and I seek to know and be known by our clergy and place a high value on engaging with communities across the diocese and building positive networks of relationship.

I certainly don't expect you to match every aspect of this role, and the people of these worshipping communities will be partners in the gospel, but if you think that this is a ministry that has the potential to connect with your gifts and be one in which you will be able to be fulfilled and grow then I very much hope you will apply so that we can further discern together if this is the right place for you.

In short this is an exciting post, full of opportunity and with the potential to be immensely rewarding.

If you have any questions or want to know more, please do not hesitate to contact Phil Andrew, the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, for a conversation on 07498 052045 or email archdchelt@glosdioc.org.uk. Applications should be returned to Debbie Long, PA to the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, at dlong@glosdioc.org.uk by 10.00am on Wednesday 10 January 2024. Interviews will be held in the Benefice on Wednesday 31 January 2024.

With all good wishes and thanks

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

**The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek
Bishop of Gloucester**