

March 2024

The Right Revd Robert Springett  
Bishop of Tewkesbury  
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Dear Candidate

**Associate Rector: Parish of West Cheltenham with responsibility for  
St Barnabas Church**

Thank you for making enquiries about this vacancy – I hope you will find this letter and the linked documents helpful in considering your application as you discern whether God might be calling you to come and join us in this exciting and challenging role with its unique opportunity serve in this diverse 'Estate Parish' and contribute to the continuing renewal of its ministry.

This is a role with many opportunities for ministry and would suit someone looking at a first incumbency role, as well as someone with more experience. You will have a deep passion for the Kingdom of God, relish the challenge of continuing to build up the body of Christ across the church communities, value and be energised by diversity, and be able to engage with the hopes and needs of the wider community. The role brings all the advantages of being part of a healthy and very supportive team under Rod's established leadership, together with the opportunity of leading St Barnabas into the next chapter of its life and growth.

You will also be part of a supportive deanery. Across the diocese we are engaged in a strategic planning process to shape ministry, mission and the use of resources and to encourage a church landscape of ever-increasing varied configuration with new worshipping communities emerging in new and different ways alongside our inherited ministry. This is a diocese which celebrates pioneer ministry, our schools, chaplaincies and Fresh Expressions of Church. Clergy who come to minister in this diocese need to be enthusiastic about being part of this changing landscape and willing to engage with the Deanery and Diocese.

All of this this from a place of confidence and creativity rather than scarcity, and is rooted in our vision of 'LIFE Together': [www.gloucester.anglican.org/about/vision](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/about/vision) and supported by our Culture and Values for ministry at [www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/cultures-and-values-of-ministry](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/cultures-and-values-of-ministry) .

**Continued/-**

[gloucester.anglican.org](http://gloucester.anglican.org)

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As we live this time of continued uncertainty across our church, country and world, it is important to underline that as a diocese we are living from a place of confidence, and mutual support and there is a deep commitment to the wellbeing of all our clergy. 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 Rachel 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.

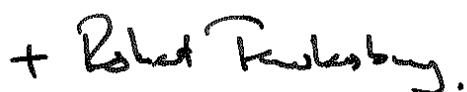
I certainly don't expect you to match every aspect of this role, and the people of these worshipping communities will be partners in the gospel, but if you think this is a ministry that has the potential to connect with your gifts and be one in which you and the communities you will serve here have the potential to flourish, 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 the Rector, the Revd Rod Patterson on 07853 632675.

Applications should be returned to Debbie Long, PA to the Archdeacon of Cheltenham at [dlong@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:dlong@glosdioc.org.uk) by 10am on Monday 22 April 2024. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 15 May 2024.

With all good wishes and thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Robert Springett." The signature is written in a cursive style with a plus sign at the beginning.

The Rt Revd Robert Springett  
Bishop of Tewkesbury