

October 2025

The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek
Bishop of Gloucester & Anglican Bishop
for HM Prisons
The Bishops' Office
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Dear Candidate,

Rector of the Churn Valley Benefice

Thank you for exploring this post. It will suit a priest who has a heart for rural ministry in today's world. This is a Benefice who are increasingly working together and sharing ministry in a collaborative and exciting way – holding together the traditional presence in each community while seeking to reach out in new ways. During the vacancy a group of Lay Worship Leaders have been trained and commissioned, and they are working with a strong part time administrator and the wider ministry team – they will all be a support and encouragement for the new Rector. Within the Benefice there are also 3 church schools and 2 colleges. There are already good relationships here, and a hope to build even stronger connections to enable greater connection with children, young people and families. As the Benefice put it in the profile, they are looking for someone who will bring vision to this work and will help them to reach out to all in their communities.

Like every deanery across the diocese, Cirencester Deanery of which these parishes are a part, is working to shape ministry, mission and the use of resources for the future, from a place of confidence and creativity rather than scarcity, rooted in our vision of 'LIFE Together': www.gloucester.anglican.org/about/vision. In recent years, all our Deaneries have been engaging with a Deanery Strategic Planning process, exploring how we can invest in ministry that will be fruitful and sustainable for the coming years. In Cirencester, the key strands of their DSP thinking are staying connected to the local community; developing lay leadership; meeting people where they are and clarity about the role of clergy in the new landscape. One very exciting element of this is the commitment to appoint a Deanery Operations Lead – who will work with parishes to offer support, build new systems and lift burdens from local leaders. We are hoping to appoint as Rector, someone who will come and share in this Deanery work, exploring ways to work with colleagues across boundaries. For a candidate with the right gifts, this may include an invitation to share in being a part of the Deanery Leadership Team.

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All of our work together is supported by our Culture and Values for ministry at: www.gloucester.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' (John 10:10).

In this diocese we celebrate pioneer ministry, our schools, chaplaincies and Fresh Expressions of Church and 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. Thus it has been good to see initiatives such as Sportily [Kids Sports Clubs Glos | Sportily](#) and [Grace Network](#) emerging and partnering with parishes. Furthermore, our Connect ministry with children, young people and families continues to take shape [Connect Ministry with Children, Youth and Family – Diocese of Gloucester](#)

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 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 a 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 Archdeacon of Cheltenham, the Venerable Katrina Scott, on 07484 967570.

Applications should be returned to Debbie Long, PA to the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, dlong@glosdioc.org.uk by 10.00 am on Monday 3 November 2025. Interviews will be held on **Friday 28 November 2025**.

With all good wishes and thanks

+ Rachel Gloucester:

The Rt Revd Rachel Trewick
Bishop of Gloucester