

The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek

Bishop of Gloucester & Anglican

Bishop for HM Prisons

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January 2026

Dear Candidate

### **Associate Priest in the Benefice of Bourton on the Water with Clapton and the Rissingtons**

Thank you for exploring this post. This is an exciting new shape for this post (with extended capacity in moving from a House for Duty post to a House plus 0.5 stipend post) which is seeking to draw on a sense of energy and vision across the Benefice. This is a setting with considerable recent housing developments in both Bourton on the Water and Upper Rissington meaning that a significant number of the local population are children, teenagers, and young adults. The Benefice has in recent years been beginning to work more closely together and are keen to appoint a priest who will work across the area, building on these good relationships and helping to focus on ministry to families.

At this time, we are all a part of an adventurous process whereby every deanery across the diocese is working to develop a deanery strategic pathway which looks at the shape of ministry and mission across each deanery and the use of resources for the future. This is being approached from a place of confidence and creativity rather than scarcity, and is rooted in our vision of 'LIFE Together':

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At its heart we want to share 'the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ,' so that all people may 'know life in all its fullness.'

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](http://Kids Sports Clubs Glos | Sportily) and [Grace Network](http://Grace Network) emerging and partnering with parishes.

In the North Cotswolds Deanery, of which these parishes are a part, the DSP is assisting with a focus on appointing to roles that are collaborative, working across boundaries, creative and 'do-able.' In this setting, you will be a part of a supportive cluster of Benefices and also work alongside a new Schools Connector – soon to be appointed to support work at the Cotswold School (the secondary school that is the catchment school for much of the Deanery).

In the diocese in 2026, there will be an even stronger emphasis on the child, young person and family, with an increased focus on how all that currently exists across deaneries and diocese is woven together

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more coherently such that there is a clear 'pathway' which offers the possibility of encounter with Jesus Christ and growth as a disciple for every child and family from birth through to adulthood, with stronger missional relationships between worshipping communities who may not all be able to offer everything into that pathway. In the midst of all of this, our diocesan 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 described above.

This 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. Furthermore, 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 based at Church House in Gloucester.

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 this worshipping community 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 Ven Katrina Scott, on 07484 967570.

Applications should be returned to Debbie Long, PA to the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, [dlong@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:dlong@glosdioc.org.uk) by 10.00 am on Monday 2 February 2026. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 25 February 2026.

With all good wishes and thanks

*+ Rachel Gloucester:*

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Bishop of Gloucester**