

May 2026

The Rt Revd Robert Springett
Bishop of Tewkesbury
The Bishops' Office
Church House, 5 Denmark Road, Gloucester,
GL1 3HW
btewkesbury@glosdioc.org.uk
Tel: 01452 835562

Dear Candidate

Team Vicar with oversight of Kempford with Whelford, Castle Eaton, Marston Meysey and Meysey Hampton in the South Cotswolds Team Ministry

Thank you for making enquiries about this vacancy with pastoral charge of a group of parishes set in a popular, accessible and attractive part of the country, stretching between Cirencester and Lechlade. The parishes describe themselves as “warm, engaged, and active” and looking forward to welcoming a new parish priest who has the skills to help release this in their midst.

I agree. There is much to celebrate and significant potential in these parishes. They are in good heart and the congregations are committed and supportive, yet also aware of the significant challenges of rural ministry and of the fact that their demography does not always reflect their wider community, especially in terms of younger families and children. The Team Ministry of which these parishes are a part is gently supportive, encouraging but not controlling. The retirement of the Team Rector at Easter will be a significant moment and you will be able to play an important part in the opportunity this will bring for the team to look at its priorities for the future,

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 This is supported by our Culture and Values for ministry at www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/cultures-and-values-of-ministry . I would want and expect you to be part of this continuing exploration as together we seek 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](#) and [Grace Network](#) emerging and partnering with parishes. Furthermore, our Connect ministry with

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children, young people and families continues to take shape [Connect Ministry with Children, Youth and Family – Diocese of Gloucester](#)

Again I would want you to be enthusiastic about being part of this changing landscape knowing you will in turn be part of an imaginative approach to ministry and mission across all our communities as we see to nurture 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 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.

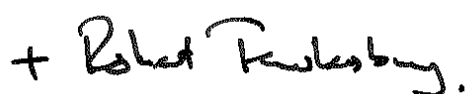
I certainly don't expect you to match every aspect of this role, and the people of this worshipping community will be partners in the gospel, but if you think that this is a ministry that has the potential to connect with your gifts and be one in which you will be able to be fulfilled and grow then I 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 Revd Ali Mepham, Senior Interim & Transitional Minister on **07563 800117** or by email amepham@glosdioc.org.uk.

Applications should be returned to Debbie Long, PA to the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, at dlong@glosdioc.org.uk by 10am on Tuesday 15 June 2026 . Interviews will be held in the Benefice on Wednesday 1 July 2026.

With all good wishes and thanks

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

The Rt Revd Robert Springett
Bishop of Tewkesbury