

New Clergy Roles in North East Bradford

As a result of recent retirements, we have the opportunity to reimagine our approach to mission and ministry in the North East area of the Bradford Episcopal Area. This area includes the parishes of Holy Trinity Idle, St John's Greengates, St John's Thorpe Edge, St Luke's Eccleshill and St Cuthbert's Wrose. Building on the closer relationships that have been developing between these five parishes, we are seeking three new clergy, who will work collaboratively with each other, and with the Resourcing Church of Holy Trinity Idle to take forward mission across the whole area. The roles are:

- A full-time Associate Vicar of Idle, Greengates and Wrose
- A full-time Interim Priest-in-charge (initially 3 years) of St Luke's, Eccleshill
- A half-stipend post as Interim (initially 3 years) Community Priest of St John's Thorpe Edge

The five parishes share strong similarities in terms of context and demographics. In particular, these include new-build housing developments and social housing estates. Relationships have been strengthening considerably between the congregations, not least through a shared week of prayer in September, as a result of great work by the vicar of Holy Trinity Idle and the Area Dean. The three new roles are designed to help take forward this spirit of collaboration and a shared approach to meeting the current and emerging mission and ministry needs across these parishes. As relationships and collaboration have deepened, so has the appetite to reorganise the parishes to find new structures which will reflect and support the patterns of mission, ministry and worship that develop in this next season. The new post-holders will be expected to contribute to shaping this process.

Holy Trinity Idle, was designated a Resourcing Church in 2019 and is receiving Strategic Development Funding from 2019-2027 to support revitalisation work in north-east Bradford. Holy Trinity is therefore well-placed to offer support across this wider geography. Furthermore, a Bishop's Mission Order exists across north-east Bradford for Sorted, a youth church started 20 years ago aimed at unchurched young people from harder to reach backgrounds.

Conversations between our key lay and clergy leaders in North-East Bradford have identified:

- A strong desire to work more closely together, including subsequent pastoral reorganisation;
- A recognition that there are significant unreached communities across the area;
 - Some of these areas are long-standing social housing estates;
 - Some of these areas are major new housing developments;
- An opportunity to use the 2.5 posts available flexibly to enable us to recruit people with specialisms in pioneering mission in new housing developments and on social housing estates, with the expectation that this expertise would be offered across the whole area from a base at one (or two) of the existing churches.

We envisage stipendiary ministry across north-east Bradford as combining both a proper focus on the needs of an individual parish, as well as both offering and receiving particular skills to and from neighbouring parishes

The roles for Eccleshill and Thorpe Edge are for Interim Ministers. Their interim nature allows all parties to decide the best way forward, and the shape of the clergy's roles, after the initial period of up to three years. A monitoring process is being put in place, with a review point at the end of two years at the latest, to assess progress and to enable a decision to be taken as to whether the interim ministry arrangements should be extended, made permanent or the appointments reviewed and changed. This will allow the decision to be implemented during the third year of the interim post. The criteria for the reviews would be based on the objectives set for the respective interim ministries, which relate to the above priorities for North-East Bradford

The specific objectives common to all three roles are:

1. To develop and implement a plan to engage with people living in the less well-reached social housing in North-East Bradford;
2. To develop and implement a plan for mission amongst the people living and moving into the new housing developments in North-East Bradford;
3. To see the clergy, PCCs and church congregations in north-east Bradford working ever more closely in taking forward the above two tasks, and to develop appropriate possible structural changes, including pastoral re-organisation, which will support this better;
4. To strengthen relationships with the rest of the Outer Bradford Deanery, as well as the wider Episcopal Area and Diocese.

For an informal conversation about any of these roles please contact:

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To apply for any of these posts please go to the [Church of England Pathways](#) site