

Ministry in the Diocese of Peterborough

Warm greetings as you explore the possibility of ministry in Peterborough Diocese. This letter is intended to supplement the profile carefully prepared for each role, providing further information and a wider perspective.

Dioceses vary in their culture and their approach to ministry and mission. Here in Peterborough Diocese we are committed to our parishes and clergy, we have expectations and aspiration for growth, and we work together to serve those in our communities. In the last few years we have developed the Gen2 project (more information can be found on our website <https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/about-us/children-youth/gen2-project.php>) which seeks to change the culture of our church, prioritising younger generations and seeing them as fellow disciples.

Peterborough Diocese serves around a million people. There are two Archdeaconries, Northampton in the south and Oakham in the north. The two Archdeaconries have similar characteristics. Most of the communities are rural, but with two significant urban populations: Peterborough and Northampton. Northampton is the second largest town in the UK, with a population of 225,000. In addition, there are the towns of Corby, Kettering, Rushden, Wellingborough and Daventry, not forgetting the market towns of Oakham, Uppingham, Oundle, Towcester and Brackley. The Archdeacon of Northampton, Richard Ormston (since 2014) and the Archdeacon of Oakham, Alison Booker (since 2022) work together to support the whole diocese.

During the last 12 years, the diocese has gained a sense of identity and unity, believing the parish is at the centre of our ministry and that the diocesan officers are there to support that parish ministry. Support includes pastoral care from bishops and archdeacons plus, teams available to provide additional 'on the ground' support including Gen2, Mission, Education, Stewardship, Lay training and ongoing ministerial training.

In January 2023, with Bishop Donald's retirement, we began our Vacancy in See. The Acting Bishop of Peterborough is John Holbrook (the Suffragan Bishop of Brixworth since 2011). As a diocesan family, we are praying for the appointment of our new bishop and looking forward to the person God is calling to lead us in this next period of our diocesan life.

Clergy morale is important to us. Bishops visit all licensed clergy in their homes every three years on a purely pastoral basis. We talk about "shared episcopate" and encourage rural deans, parish clergy and chaplains to be leaders in mission, confidently getting on with ministry. We are increasing the number of ordinations and of parochial clergy.

We believe in church growth. All our senior staff saw growth in their earlier parish ministries, and it is our expectation for every healthy church. Interdependency and a shared belonging and commitment to mission are important and each local unit should have its own aspiration to being a growing, viable, missional, serving and worshipping community.

The bishop and the dean, Chris Dalliston, work closely together, presenting the cathedral (even though it is situated geographically towards one end of a long and narrow diocese) as the spiritual centre of diocesan life. Clergy come to the Renewal of Ordination Vows and the Blessing of Oils on Maundy Thursday, followed by lunch. There is also a Cathedral Day of teaching and worship in the autumn. Retired clergy come to the cathedral for a summer Eucharist and lunch while Ordinands join the senior staff for two social events each year.

As a diocese we are committed to giving our clergy good, well maintained housing, and appropriate ongoing training and support.

In turn, we look for certain commitments:

- to share with the bishop in the cure of souls, and to work strategically for growth in numbers among the worshipping community
- to enable the full participation of children and young people in the whole life of the church, and to develop mission among the younger generations
- to be involved in both church and other local schools as far as possible, actively seeking opportunities for mission whilst offering a chaplaincy role, leading collective worship or serving as a governor (but not as chair)
- to teach Christian discipleship including the principles of giving
- to take seriously the pastoral and missional opportunities of occasional offices, aiming for good working relationships with funeral directors and others
- to be involved in deanery and diocesan activities and in the life of their local community
- to promote and enable lay ministry in both church and community
- to take part in our ministry review process, consisting of a three-year rolling programme: a pastoral visit to your home, a formal review by a member of the senior team, and a review of training needs.
- to engage with the continuing ministerial development programme offered by the diocese and in personal study, nurturing your own spirituality
- to hold a current DBS certificate, to undergo safeguarding training as required and to follow and promote the diocesan safeguarding policy.

We look forward to meeting and welcoming those who share our values and want to serve the Lord, the Church and the Gospel with us.



Bishop of Brixworth, Acting Bishop of Peterborough