

Dear Candidate

I am delighted that you are considering the post of Vicar of Whitefriars Rushden. As you read the parish profile you will get a real feel for the DNA of the community of believers of Whitefriars: their wish for a leader who has a Holy Spirit inspired vision and discernment for God's goals for their parish; their yearning for a team leader who can enable and develop the gifts of those in their community; and their prayer that their intergenerational and family centred worship community may grow as a beacon of light and hope in an Acts 2:47 way – not because people join them from other churches, but because 'the Lord adds to our number daily those who are being saved.'

You will also read that the parish does not have a traditional church building, the church family of Whitefriars having always met in a school. There is a formal agreement with the school to allow that to continue and relationships with the school are good. However, the temporary building which has been used as a church office and for mid-week ministry is no longer available. An alternative solution is being sought for the office, but further time is needed to discern where midweek ministry might take place.

Alongside this, the PCC is seeking God's guidance whether Sunday worship should remain in the school, or whether there might be a new home for Whitefriars which enables the church community to carry out their Kingdom building mission more effectively and creatively.

It is an exciting time not only to join Whitefriars, but the town of Rushden as a whole. In the town there are three Anglican churches who together form a legally constituted group. Each parish has CPAS as their Patron. As a Diocese we are keen to support the new Vicar of Whitefriars, the Incumbent of St Mary's and, when appointed, the incumbent of St Peter's to explore how this group can work together to enable and enrich the Church's mission across the whole town of Rushden.

I invite you prayerfully to consider the parish profile, and the other information provided about Whitefriars, Rushden and the Diocese as a whole. If you believe you feel God's calling to minister to his people in this place we would very much welcome an application from you.

With my best wishes

+ Debbie