

July 2026

Dear Candidate

Rector of the Parish of West Cheltenham

Thank you for exploring this post. The West Cheltenham Parish is an active and dynamic series of communities, who describe themselves as “a welcoming and diverse, family friendly church, made up of imperfect people who want to explore faith together. Our vision is to see communities and places *buzzing* with the extraordinary presence of Jesus.” The Parish sits across a significant geographical area within the town of Cheltenham, with a growing and diverse population including areas of high deprivation. The leadership of the Parish works well together, with Churchwardens, PCC members, staff and clergy team all playing their part and sharing in vision and hopes for the future. We hope a new Rector will bring leadership and pastoral gifts, building on what is already working well and shaping the new stage of ministry across this area – working with schools, community groups and worshipping communities in pioneering and traditional rhythms.

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’: 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

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](#) and [Grace Network](#) emerging and partnering with parishes.

In the Cheltenham Deanery, of which this parish is a part, the Deanery Strategic Pathway is assisting with a focus on working collaboratively across key areas. This includes the new housing developments within this Parish and work with young people, including through our Church of England Secondary Academy – All Saints. The Chapter is strong and supportive and works well with ecumenical partners too.

This year in the diocese we are endeavouring to shift intentionally to an even stronger emphasis on the child, young person and family. We are asking how all that currently exists across deaneries and diocese is woven together more coherently such that there is a clear ‘pathway’ which offers the possibility of

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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 these worshipping communities 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.

With all good wishes and thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Rachel Gloucester:". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek
Bishop of Gloucester**