

Role Description

The Rector designate of Stockport and Brinnington

The Diocese of Chester is looking for a leader to build capacity across a diverse new parish to inspire transformation in the Church and community. This is a position of considerable strategic significance to the Diocese of Chester and will require someone with the gifts to develop a ministry that encourages collaboration and creative partnership. We pray this becomes a resource for the greater Stockport conurbation and the wider Diocese.

The Diocese of Chester is making a number of important appointments to urban hubs, to be resourcing centres of ministry and mission. The Rector designate of Stockport and Brinnington is one such key appointment.

The person appointed must have the skills to develop and work with the existing team. There is funding to appoint a full-time clergy colleague resident in Brinnington, and aspiration to source other funding for additional lay and ordained team members, to accelerate impact for communities in this town centre and outer estate where the Church faces significant challenges.

The key tasks as stated in the Parish Profile are:-

Lead the parish through change

- to seek God's vision for the parish with the congregations of the three churches then work at turning that vision into action,
- to train and equip, in realistic and practical ways, those whom God is calling to resource the work of the Kingdom nurturing across traditions in prayer, worship, teaching, discipleship, ministry and mission
- to lead outreach and capacity building in partnership with others, for example, in outer estates; in the management and mission of buildings; in families, children and youth work; in response to social need, and whatever other challenges come along.

Lead the parish in mission and growth

- to nurture existing congregations and ministries,
- learning from existing good practice, to initiate new opportunities to share the Gospel in ways that are good news for those as yet unreached e.g. in the outer estates of Stockport; in the retail and business centres; for the night-time economy; through our church schools; at Stockport College; and with the excluded and marginalised,

- to plant new congregations or Fresh Expressions for those who respond or are searching,
- to model commitment to neighbours and partners through engagement and resourcing,

Lead the parish in shaping values and influence

- to offer a praying heart for the town and borough, and in partnership to seek God's way forward
- to develop relationships with the town and borough so the church is a key partner in the redevelopment of Stockport and share in those conversations with the laity and clergy of the deanery.

The five year dream

Building on existing collaborations across parishes in Stockport borough we believe that:

- the planting of new congregations and fresh expressions with the evidence of new life they bring, will facilitate a continuing and growing ministry resourced by the three deaneries in the borough,
- the building up of expertise locally as part of the Diocese's participation in Setting God's People Free, will enable the ongoing self-generated peer to peer training and resourcing to continue,
- the effective identification of projects, that churches can jointly contribute to and benefit from, will generate the impetus for further joint working to be resourced long term from collaborative funding.

The new parish is an ideal formational location for Ordinands and Readers and Pastoral Workers in training, and as a training parish for curates. It is anticipated that any additional support will accelerate and amplify work already in progress.

Person specification for the post of Rector designate of Stockport and Brinnington

We recognise that it is vital to appoint someone who has:-

- the resilience and strength to oversee this significant ministry,
- a deep personal faith that inspires discipleship,
- the capacity to lead, and nurture and train others in leadership
- a track record in change management that has seen Churches grow,
- commitment to collaboration and partnership,
- interpersonal skills that affirm and encourage others,
- ability to thrive in the midst of complexity, and
- genuine appreciation of diversity in church and community.

Essential Skills and Competences

Leading the parish through change

- Ability to deal pastorally with difficult situations with wisdom and robustness when required.
- Experience of, and willingness to, develop collaborative ministry with clergy and laity of different traditions.
- Ability to pioneer new opportunities.
- Willingness to play a full part in the life of the Deanery and Borough.

Leading the parish in mission and growth

- Ability to nurture and develop all member ministry across diverse congregations.
- Gifts in teaching and communication.
- Passionate for outreach and willing to be bold.
- Willingness and ability to be innovative and help develop new worshipping communities.
- Ability to develop and lead fresh expressions of Christian community and worship and to look at new ways of making disciples of Christ.
- Ability to seize the opportunities for pioneering ministry within new housing developments within the parish.
- An understanding of the missional and inclusive nature of occasional offices.

Leading the parish in shaping values and influence

- Ability to develop links with the wider parish community.
- Commitment to town centre ministry and the civic authorities.
- Willingness to work with the marginalised.

Desirable Skills and Competences

- Experience of pioneering ministry.
- Experience of growing town centre ministry.
- Experience of working in schools.
- Experience of developing engaging and relevant ministry for children, young people and families.
- Experience of supervision and line management.
- Experience of working with the excluded and marginalised.
- Knowledge of how to develop fruitful media and social media connections.

You will be an Ordained Minister in the Church of England and have regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Guidelines for the Code of Professional Conduct for Clergy and other relevant legislation.

For an informal conversation regarding the Parish of Stockport and Brinnington, together with the role of Rector, please contact the Bishop of Stockport, the Rt Revd Libby Lane on 0161 928 5611.