

BISHOP'S STATEMENT FOR CREWE

This is a significant opportunity to shape mission and ministry across central and south Crewe at a time when the town is hoping for significant regeneration.

The town is scheduled to be on the HS2 line and in anticipation of significant future investment there has been growth in employment opportunities and substantial housing development. It remains a well located transport hub for both road and rail and the home of Bentley.

The three churches of St Andrews, All Saints and St Peter's are all in a broad liberal Catholic tradition and in recent years with excellent leadership have begun to explore missional opportunities. St Andrews in particular has witnessed congregation growth in number and spirituality. The three churches have grown closer together, especially through the sharing of a curate and community worker and they are now ready to come together for an even closer link under a single Vicar and a part time Associate Minister whose appointment is awaiting the new incumbent.

The community Development Worker Post is currently funded by the deanery to work in central Crewe with 2 other parishes. It was set up as a two year project and funding is due to end August 2020. The possibility of extending this for another year is being explored to more firmly establish the work begun and build the confidence of the lay people involved in the projects.

It is the hope of the Diocese of Chester that the closer working will eventually be recognised by developing a single benefice, but structures are not as important as relationships and this can develop when the time is right.

It is essential that the priest chosen must have significant capacity to carry a complicated structure and be able to demonstrate the ability to lead in mission through social justice and community outreach programmes. They must have a heart for the poor and the energy and passion to want to be the difference by inspiring and focusing a committed and hard working lay team.