

## St John's Great Horton and St Wilfrid's Lidget Green

The parishes of Great Horton and Lidget Green offer an excellent opportunity for a curate to practice and develop a wide range of ministry and leadership skills. You would be part of a strongly united team of staff and volunteers in two fascinating and varied inner-city parishes. Ministry for a curate here would encompass a full range of worship, pastoral and evangelistic opportunities in the charismatic evangelical tradition.

The context allows for (or rather, necessitates) engagement with issues of poverty and we have many opportunities to serve the poor, for example through our community nursery, toddler groups, food bank, lunch clubs, schools work, advice sessions, and so on. In addition, there are opportunities for friendship and faith-sharing with Muslims and Hindus (St John's is twinned with a local mosque).

We are committed to church growth in all three dimensions (numbers, discipleship, service). I expect that within the term of the curacy, we would be looking to plant at least one new congregation – either into a new location or bringing strength to a weaker congregation. The curate would have opportunity to engage with this strategic form of thinking, as well as with other strategic areas such as youth work, residential missional community life, sustainable social enterprise, and very active discipleship and leadership training programmes.

The incumbent has a very collaborative style of working and sees the training of a curate as being primarily about helping them to hone the ministry and leadership skills they have, to strengthen weaker areas, and to develop new skills through reflective practice. As the curacy proceeds you could expect to be given more responsibility and opportunity for leadership as appropriate, to appropriately stretch you and help develop resilience and higher level leadership skills.

We would take seriously your spiritual life and encourage a servant-hearted leadership style and a commitment to personal growth through spiritual discipline. We would encourage a healthy work-life balance, and a firm commitment to ongoing training and regular retreat, sometimes alone and sometimes with the team.

A curate coming to work in Great Horton and Lidget Green would be challenged to grapple with difficult questions about developing a clear sense of vision and forward-looking purpose. They would find opportunities to think together about how we can listen to both the Bible and the surrounding culture in ways which are true to the inherited faith. They would not be able to avoid important issues relating to how we can present and live out the gospel authentically in this culture.

And (hopefully) it would be fun.

For more information, contact Revd Canon John Bavington, [revjohnbav@stjohnsgreathorton.org.uk](mailto:revjohnbav@stjohnsgreathorton.org.uk), 07704 854978