**Gloucester Diocese** 

We have 3 opportunities in 2023 for deacons who expect to be ordained priest in the Diocese of Gloucester. Two are rural serving with pioneer priests deeply committed to reimagining ministry in the rural context, one is set in a suburban context in Gloucester with a creative and inspirational incumbent. If you haven’t heard of Gloucester Diocese and its commitment to enabling healthy human ministry for all, take a look: [www.gloucester.anglican.org](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org). If you are interested in exploring these opportunities please contact Ann Sargent, DDO, asargent@glosdioc.org.uk .

**Leadon Vale Benefice**

Set to the west of Gloucester Diocese the Leadon Vale benefice is a brilliant place to minister. Nine different churches with different worshiping styles, values and contexts. If you want to experience rural church this is the place to be! There is a real opportunity to understand the specific opportunities of a rural context and work with the Priest in Charge to develop new ways of being church within the wider community.

**Leadon Vale Benefice**

The Leadon Vale benefice is a brilliant place to minister. Nine different churches with different worshiping styles, values and contexts. If you want to experience rural church this is the place to be! From Dymock which values the choral tradition to Preston where the building is in an antique farm with hardly anyone living in the parish. We have Pauntley who see their mission to support and love the many wedding couples who get married at Dick Whittington’s church, to Donnington which is in the middle of a field. Each church would easily be a contender for best view and we are so grateful for the fabulous countryside setting. The Benefice had a period of nearly 5 years without a Priest in charge and there is much strategic thinking happening around how the benefice can work more smoothly. At the moment, the majority of the congregation are elderly but there is much going on with a new toddler group, youth group and forest church. On the horizon there is the hope of a church plant looking at doing church differently. The Benefice has a wonderful supportive retired clergy and readers team and a youth and children’s minister. With 4 church schools there is lots of opportunitity to engage with schools work. We have an Open the book team, we produce online collective worship and engage with many extra activities with our schools. - `There is also a growing children’s ministry outside of school - toddler group, youth club etc - the range of worship in the benefice is wide and so a brilliant opportunity to learn many ways of leading a congregation. This context provides a real opportunity to understand rural church and work with the Priest in Charge to develop new ways of being church to the wider community.

**St Georges Tuffley with St Margaret’s Whaddon, Gloucester**

Set just 3 miles out of the city of Gloucester, the benefice is a lively, friendly, and fun place to live and minister. With a population of 12,000 there are many opportunities for mission, community engagement and walking alongside people in God’s love. The two churches gloriously contrast each other, and the congregations are enthusiastic, inclusive and welcoming.

**St Georges Tuffley with St Margaret’s Whaddon, Gloucester**

The vision of the benefice is ‘to seek the growth of God’s Kingdom in Tuffley, Podsmead and Whaddon’ through the priorities of worshipping, caring and pioneering. There is a passionate commitment to develop and celebrate these priorities through a collaborative, ‘teamwork’ approach, across the two churches and within the community. This includes the wider ‘Church in Tuffley’ which is an informal partnership between the churches (RC, Baptist and neighbouring Anglican church). Therefore, this curacy would particularly suit someone who is open and keen to work with others in Kingdom building.

St George’s Church is a 1950/60s building with flexible layout and adjoining Church Centre. The worship style is relaxed modern catholic with the potential for creative and alternative worship and liturgy. St Margaret’s is a well looked after 13th Century building with surrounding churchyard. The worship is mainly traditional in style, with new forms of worship and outreach emerging, for instance, a new family gathering on a Sunday afternoon. There are a steady number of baptisms and funerals at both churches, and weddings at St Margaret’s.

Some of the many opportunities for community engagement and pioneering across the benefice are already being explored, and there is huge future potential. Across the benefice there are five schools: one infant, one junior, one primary and two secondaries; three nurseries, a children and young people’s football training centre, a library, a pub, community centre, local shops and businesses, light industry, a community Fire Station, residential care homes etc. In addition, a new development of 250 houses is underway and there are proposals for another development of 3000 houses over the next five years in Whaddon. All in all, this is an exciting time to be part of telling the story of God’s love, with the people of God in Tuffley, Podsmead and Whaddon – is God calling you to join us on this journey?

**The 5 Villages, in the South Cotswold Team Ministry**

We are a group of 5 rural villages and churches, to the east of Cirencester near Fairford. We offer solid, supportive, all round Curate training in a beautiful Cotswold setting. We have 5 friendly churches in lively villages, with families, children, schools and youth work, and opportunities to develop new things in areas that interest you. We enjoy Eucharistic services, choral evensong, Taize and forest church and look forward to getting to know you and your passions.

**The 5 Villages, in the South Cotswold Team Ministry**

We are a group of 5 rural villages and churches, to the east of Cirencester near Fairford, newly come together in 2020 under one full time Vicar. Our villages and churches have distinct features as well as common connections. We believe in rural ministry and in the parish system and are proud to uphold our Anglican identity of serving our communities wholeheartedly as well as our church congregations. There is goodwill towards the church and many partners and stakeholders to work with here, with more opportunities for mission and outreach than we can currently develop, particularly around work with children, families and our two wonderful Church of England primary schools.

We are keen to grow and strengthen our engagement with our communities and grow our churches, connecting better with families and children, and exploring what it really means to be faithful to the gospel on the ground in our parishes in the twenty first century. We are passionate about village life, and the connections and ties that underlie neighbourliness and community engagement.

We’d love you to consider if God is calling you to come and join us on this journey. We will offer you a range of churchmanship and traditions, in a friendly, supportive, and active curacy where you will develop all the required skills and competences, along with opportunities to grow in areas of your own ministry and vocation. We have 5 beautiful villages and churches, 4 fantastic country pubs, 3 PCC’s and two Church of England primary schools to get to know and enjoy!

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