

Parish Profile for Training Parishes/Benefices

Who should be contacted in the first instance:

Please contact The Revd Canon Dr Tim Bull, Diocesan Director of Vocations,
tbull@stalbans.anglican.org

General Information

Name of Benefice/Parish	St Peter & St Paul, Flitwick Church
Deanery	Amphill & Shefford
Archdeaconry	Bedfordshire
Diocese	St Albans
Number of Churches in Benefice	One
Clergy and Readers (and any other parish workers)	Revd Claire Harald (Vicar) Becky Mynett (Reader) Sophie Tucker (Reader in Training & Pioneer Enabler) Sam Davis (Ordinand)



Have any of the resolutions under the Priest (Ordination of Women) Measure been passed?

No

Flitwick Church have previously had a training curate and see themselves as a church with a lot to offer in regard to training opportunities and encouragement.

Incumbent Details



Incumbent's name Revd Claire Harald

Date of ordination: June 2019

Length of time in
present post: 6 months

Previous posts and experience of incumbent, including details of any previous experience as a Training Incumbent (curate and Reader)

Supervisor for an ordinand in training with ERMC – May 2022 to present

Supervisor for a Reader in training – Sept 2022 to present

Curacy

June 2019 – Apr 2022

Norton Parish (St George's & St Nicholas Church), Letchworth

Children & Families Worker

March 2012 – June 2019

St Paul's Church, Letchworth

Being a Training Incumbent; Claire's vision

The role of a training incumbent is to prepare and encourage a newly ordained person to grow into the priest they were called to be. This means supporting and encouraging them as they explore all areas of ministry. It means supporting them as they try new things, are given freedom to explore and grasp opportunities to grow.

As training incumbent, It involves assisting them in discovering the tools they need and offering them opportunities to broaden their experience of ministry. This is all with the focus of helping them to grow in their calling to ordained ministry, given them a good foundation of training to build from.

As incumbent, I am committed to offering regular supervision in a way that would be beneficial for any curates learning and training style. In this would be ongoing theological reflection and application to our context here in Flitwick. I would aim to encourage any curate in training to explore their gifts but also to open themselves up to broadening experiences, allowing space for growth.

Time and opportunity would be given to meet all possible training needs and they would be encouraged to explore new areas of ministry and missional work.

The curate would be encouraged to work in a way that leads to sustainable and fruitful ministry, taking into account their personal circumstances and well being.

Nature of post

Please tick which are applicable:

X	Training post for deacon who expects to be ordained priest
	Training post for permanent deacon

The context: the parish/benefice setting

Flitwick in Bedfordshire is a town of around 14,000 people. It has had a large number of new housing developments, which has led to more of a commuter town culture as there is a direct link into London. There are 3 lower schools and 1 middles school and three care homes with a new one currently being built. It is a civic town, with an active town council and Mayor, who we have a very good relationship with. There is some ethnic diversity, but not a great deal and it has pockets of deprivation.

The town has a leisure centre, a variety of uniformed organisations and sports grounds.

Please also indicate from the following the main broad category (or categories), as you think most accurate:

	Rural		Urban
	Semi-rural		City centre
X	Country town		Inner city
	Industrial		Housing estate
	Suburban		

The Church



Traditional, Eucharistic based church (with scope for some more informal worship)

Electoral roll number(s): 165

Pattern of Sunday worship -

9am Sunday Celebration (usually on the lawn Apr-Oct, inside Oct-March) - more informal, creative service. Usually, 20-25 people

10.30am Main Service (With Sunday Groups for children and young people) - traditional eucharist service with robed choir.

All Together Service (First Sunday of the month) combines both services for a less traditional and creative service, with drama/puppets etc

Weekday services:

10am Wednesday Communion Service - with short reflection

Occasional Offices: approximate numbers each year of baptisms, weddings, and funerals:

Weddings	10-12
Funerals	40 (approx.)
Baptisms	10



Pattern of daily offices:

Morning Prayer in church Monday - Friday at 9.15am

Evening prayer in our homes

Lay involvement:

Reader: also our Director of Music and directs our choir. She preaches every 6-8 weeks.

Pioneer Enabler: runs Open the Book in schools, heads up FFX (Flitwick Food Extra) which provides food boxes for struggling families during every school holiday. Sophie heads up our 9am Celebration Service and also is part of the All Together Service team, Sunday Groups and Messy Church. Sophie has been accepted for Reader Training.

Ordinand: takes home communion to our house bound, leads Sunday Celebrations and has started to lead with me at 10.30am. She has led bible study groups and is an active member of the All Together team and Messy Church team. She also preaches termly.

House, study and prayer groups have not been set back up post-covid but there are plans for these. There is an Advent course planned and an Alpha course planned for January.

Parochial organizations:

Eco-Church – We are a Bronze Award Eco Church. We have a committee who look at how we can take personal and collective responsibility for the stewardship of God's created world. A consideration for our Eco Church status runs through all we do as a church.

Mothers Union – we have a small but active Mothers Union group

Little Fishes – Toddler and Baby Group running term time only on a Monday.

Puppet Ministry for young people –

Choir -Thursday evening rehearsal, singing each Sunday morning except the first Sunday of the month. They also support in seasonal and additional services.

Areas of particular mission and ministry of parish(es)(e.g. schools, hospitals, industry, prison, youth, elderly people, single parents, homeless, healing):

We are in all of the schools with Open the Book and maintain closer relations with one lower school and the middle school.

We offer home communion in one of the care homes but have not yet made roads back into all three of them – this is area of need.

Post Covid, and due to a time of vacancy, pastoral care has not been at the forefront of the churches focus.

Currently we have not restarted any youth provisions, outside of a puppet ministry that is being served in by a small group of young people.

We currently offer Food Extra Boxes for struggling families, but would like to expand on how this can create deeper relationships.

Outreach to the bereaved – we hold a large number of funerals and so have great contact with families and individuals in this way. How can we expand on what we do?

Opportunities for the development of fresh expressions of church:

Flitwick Food Extra, Messy Church, Service on the Lawn, Healing Service, community engagement

Congregations(s) mainly parish or mainly gathered:

Parish

Co-operation with other local churches, including...

Pattern of Deanery chapter and synod meetings

Opportunities for co-operation for training purposes within the deanery

Ecumenical relationships and pattern of meetings

- Deanery chapter meets monthly
- A supportive collegial approach within local ministers, this allows for training to cross over into other parishes
- Part of Churches Together Ampthill & Flitwick, also working together for the Town Civic Service and the Remembrance Day Parade (Methodist, Catholic and Baptist Church)

Pattern of staff meetings and PCC/DCC meetings with a brief description of how each functions

Ministry Team meet monthly and follow a "how are you?" alongside "lets reflect" and "let's plan" type agenda. (all ministry team have monthly supervision)

PCC is bi monthly with Standing Committee in the open month. We have a strong and supportive PCC. Meetings are generally on a Monday evening and tend to be less than one and a half hours. Reports are generally circulated before the meeting so we are only asking and referring to them rather than hearing them.

Any other activities or comments:

We are an inclusive church and are part of the Inclusive Church Network. We believe inclusivity has a huge breadth of scope and so look at all ways to be inclusive, including neuro-diversity, age, gender, sexuality, ability and disability, race and cultural inclusion.

Any areas of particular responsibility or opportunity for curates:

There are a lot of opportunity with regards to traditional and Eucharistic based worship, however there is also scope for experience in more creative and informal worship.

Like many churches, we have found it difficult to encourage back our children and families and so this is an area for development.

Similarly, we are looking at how to approach our pastoral care so that all in our faith community feel valued and loved, even if they are no longer able to physically get to church.

Discipleship has not been a focus as we emerge from Covid – this is something that needs focus and time.

There are opportunities to help develop and encourage the prayer life of the church.

Accommodation:

The curate's house is on a relatively new housing development on the outskirts of the town. It is a 4 Bedroom semi-detached house with garage and garden.

