

Diocese of York
Assistant Priest (House for Duty)
Sowerby, Sessay and the White Horse Parishes

We are seeking a Priest to share in ministry and mission in these five rural/semi-rural parishes adjacent to the market town of Thirsk in North Yorkshire.

The Assistant Priest will work on Sundays and two other days per week alongside the incumbent, curate and other ministers.

The house is a former Vicarage in the attractive village of Kilburn, famous for its White Horse and 'Mouseman' furniture. The market town of Thirsk, home of James Herriot and the Yorkshire Vet, is seven miles from Kilburn.

Church tradition is central and applications are welcome from both men and women.

The grouping of five parishes has been in place for a few years. We are very much 'on a journey' as we are looking at new ways of working together and realising the potential for mission in Sowerby (immediately to the south of Thirsk) and our nearby villages. A significant part of this context is the development of new housing and the establishment of community facilities, which will include a new primary school to be founded by a trust in which the Diocese is a partner.

Having recently shared church growth resources (LyCiG) we are now looking to develop and implement a vision for mission in our communities. We are seeking someone who enjoys engagement with the community and who values both contemporary and traditional forms of worship.

Duties

Sundays plus 2 days during the week (nominal 18 hours)

Work alongside the vicar, curate, churchwardens and lay ministers.

Full range of parish ministry including occasional offices.

Lead worship on Sundays (usually 2 services)

Person Specification

The post holder will be a priest of the Church of England or of a church in full communion with it.

Ability to travel among the parishes and IT skills are essential.

Expenses are fully reimbursed.

The post is held under the provisions of Common Tenure. A satisfactory Enhanced DBS Disclosure is required.

The Plurality of Sowerby, Sessay, Thirkleby with Kilburn & Bagby (the White Horse Parishes)

The group comprises five rural/semi-rural parishes close to the market town of Thirsk in North Yorkshire. Sowerby, which is adjoined to Thirsk, is the largest parish (population 4200). The other four are rural villages (total population approximately 1600) easily accessed from the A19, south of Thirsk.

In all the parishes there is a mixture of people with a long connection with this area and those who have moved in. There is a church in each parish, a Church of England Primary School in Sessay, and both primary and secondary schools in Sowerby.

Over the past year all the churches have been engaging with Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) resources. Members of all five PCCs have shared in an Awayday and other teaching opportunities, and a group from all five churches has been exploring ways of reaching out into their communities. An unplanned benefit of this has been that the churches have started to work more closely together and to be more supportive of one another. Since 2012 all the parishes have come together for worship on fifth Sundays.

The house, which is situated behind the church in Kilburn, is a 4-bedroomed former Vicarage, purpose-built in 1977. Kilburn is a desirable village, part of the North York Moors National Park, 7 miles from Thirsk, 20 miles north of York. It is popular with walkers and tourists, who come to visit the 'Mouseman' Centre and the White Horse. The village pub, the Forresters Arms, is an essential part of community life and the annual Kilburn Feast is not to be missed: www.kilburnfeast.uk

The Vicar, Nicky Carnall, became Priest in Charge of Sowerby and Sessay in 2005 and Vicar of all five parishes in 2012. The Curate, Dianne Gamble, has been in post since July 2015. There are Readers and Recognised Parish Assistants.

Nicky can be contacted on 01845 522814; vicar@stoswaldsowerby.org.uk Dianne can be contacted on 01845 523680; dianne@stoswaldsowerby.org.uk. Enquirers are also welcome to contact the Bishop of Whitby (01642 593273) or the Archdeacon of Cleveland (01642 706095).

Applications should be made using the standard application form on the Church of England website and sent to the PA to the Bishop of Whitby (Mrs Mandy Robinson), 21 Thornton Road, Middlesbrough, TS8 9DS / mandy.robinson@yorkdiocese.org Closing date is 12th October 2017.