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## An Introduction by the Bishop of Whitby



Thank you for reading this profile for the parishes of Ampleforth with Oswaldkirk, Gilling East and Stonegrave.

In recent years the benefice has been served in combination with a post in the diocesan ministry support team. With the reconfiguration of that team, the diocesan element is no longer attached to the parish post, which now stands by itself on a half-stipend basis, as is more fully set out in the Role Description.

This is an interesting and unusual group of rural parishes. The four parish churches are at the heart of their communities. There is a small but lively Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school. The area is popular for recreation and walking, attracting many visitors.

There is strong and able lay leadership. A model of priestly ministry, giving attention to a pastoral, teaching and sacramental ministry, is valued. At the same time, within the context of the Diocese of York's vision of *Living Christ's Story* <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/living-christs-story>, there is potential for deepening of discipleship, the development of a variety of lay ministries, and growth. We would expect the appointee to take a full and collaborative part in the life of Northern Ryedale deanery, which includes the towns of Helmsley, Kirkbymoorside and Pickering.

Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Abbey at Ampleforth, and its associated College (an independent secondary school), are a significant presence, and a number of parishioners moved into the area in order to be close to them. For a long time, the Anglican parish priest has had a role in promoting good relationships and mutual commitment in prayer and service: there has been an important ministry to members of the College who are not Roman Catholics, including preparation for Confirmation.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to consider whether you might be called to be the next priest for these parishes.

The post is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure, episcopal reference, and eligibility to work in the UK.

*+ Paul Whitby*

*The Right Reverend Paul Ferguson, Bishop of Whitby*