

**The Rt Revd Libby Lane**  
**Bishop of Derby**



Dear Colleague,

**Interim Priest-in-Charge of the Benefices of The White Peak Group and of  
Youlgreave, Middleton, Stanton-in-Peak and Birchover**

Thank you for considering this post. This is an exciting and challenging time to be joining the Diocese of Derby.

The Church of England is being asked to renew its calling to be centred on Christ Jesus and shaped by Him. In the Diocese of Derby, we echo that call, as we re-articulate a vision for the next 7 years:

**Vision:** The Kingdom of God: Good News for All

**Mission:** To proclaim *afresh* in this generation the good news of the Kingdom

**Values:** Generous Faith - Courageous Hope – Life-Giving Love

**Aims:** Transformed Lives: Growing Church, Building Community

**Interventions:** Equipping people - Shaping structures – Sustaining resources for Mission

Within each deanery, benefices are being reshaped towards a more sustainable future. We are looking to appoint a leader in mission who can work collaboratively across these beautiful rural parishes in the heart of the Peak District and develop our vision for contextual, local ministry, which is aligned to the Diocesan vision.

The last eighteen months throughout 2020 and 2021 have been extra-ordinary. The assumptions and frameworks of our lives have been fundamentally disrupted. As we try to sort meaning and understanding from the tragedy of the global pandemic big questions are being asked. Statistics suggest that a quarter of UK adults last year watched or listened to a Christian act of worship; Google searches for 'prayer' increased by 30%; enquirers courses online saw a significant uptake. How do we proclaim afresh, for this generation, the good news of the Kingdom?

Our church buildings play a real physical part in our communities, offering an icon of identity, belonging and purpose. These congregations have mostly gathered for worship remotely in these past months, but that remains inseparable from the living out of faith every day. They participate in community outreach projects, food bank donations, links to the farming communities, well-dressing festivals and support schools and families across the villages –but they desire more.

These parishes are facing significant challenge and transition, so are looking to appoint a missional leader, passionate about rural ministry, who will travel hopefully, and work collaboratively within and beyond these parishes, to equip, shape and resource growing church and building community that God's Kingdom may come.

We very much hope that you will consider applying. Be assured of my continuing prayers for you as you discern God's call.

Yours, in Christ,

+ Libby Derby

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