

The United Benefice of Duffield and Little Eaton



The context: the parish setting

Duffield is a large village with a population of approximately 5000, spreading for a mile or so up the A6, about 5 miles north of Derby. Little Eaton is a village of roughly 2400 people, located East of Duffield and a little closer to Derby. Both are comparatively wealthy areas, with significant amounts of large, detached housing.

Housing for Duffield is over 80% owner occupied, and about 50% of those employed within the village are in either professional or managerial / directorial posts, and a similar spread would be found amongst those who are retired. Historically, principal employers were British Rail and Rolls Royce, and whilst that has diversified, many still work in engineering roles. There are also a significant number of senior medical professionals who work at Derby hospital. One of the attractions of the village is the Ecclesbourne School, which is consistently ranked amongst the top performing schools in the county, and 'Ecclesbourne Catchment Area' features prominently on housing in the area. Duffield also has two primary schools with excellent reputations, The Meadows, and William Gilbert Endowed, which is a DDAT (Derby Diocesan Academy Trust) school, and which has close links with the church. Duffield has a good range of shops and amenities (especially if you want your hair styled or a wedding dress, or perhaps both), and a strong community identity.

Little Eaton has similar characteristics to Duffield; it is within the Ecclesbourne catchment and has a similar split of housing (82% owner occupied), although not quite so many grand dwellings. Around 40% of those employed within the village are either professional or managerial / directorial posts. There is one primary school in the village. The southern edge of Little Eaton backs on to the A38, and as a result there are three business parks in the village.

Both villages are well defined and do a comparatively good job at community. They are surrounded by beautiful Derbyshire countryside. The Peak District is but a short drive to the north, and the centre of Derby is only 15 minutes away by car. Buses run from Duffield to Derby every 15 minutes, and there is also a train station linking Derby, Nottingham and Matlock.

General Information

Parish / Benefice: Duffield and Little Eaton
Deanery: Dove and Derwent
Archdeaconry: Derbyshire Peak and Dales
Website address: stalkmundsduffield.co.uk
Incumbent: Rev Dr James Hughes

The Churches

The Benefice includes two churches, St Alkmund's Duffield (150 on electoral roll) and St Paul's Little Eaton (45 on electoral roll). Both are conservative evangelical churches and have been working together in the united benefice for nearly 20 years. We work to reach out from each church into the local community, but also work together when it comes to Youth Work. The ministry team operates across both churches.

At Duffield we have our main morning service at 10am. We seek to engage with a congregation which includes those from 0-90+ years old, so we have a mix of contemporary music and hymns. We run youth and children's work for 0-14's at this service and have communion once a month. On average there will be about 100 people there, with 10-15 children and young people

At Little Eaton we meet in the afternoon, at 4.30pm. There are usually about 32 of us, with a small number of children, who leave for their activities during the service. Music is again a mixture of contemporary and hymns, and we have communion once a month

We also have an evening service at St Alkmund's at 6.30pm, where we meet café style in the Church Hall. Some of the 25 folk coming have already come in the morning, others tend to come only once or only in the evening. Music is contemporary, and we aim for a relaxed feel. Once a month there is a question-and-answer time after the service.

At all these services we tend to preach expository sermons, working our way through the Old and New Testament, taking account of major festivals. All our congregations are mainly communal, with a gathered element.

There is also an BCP 8am communion service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, at the cemetery chapel in Duffield, and a Tuesday Morning Prayer 9.30am service in term time, with communion 1/month

We have a small number of baptisms a year, about 10 weddings and about 15 funerals across the benefice.

In addition to the vicar, there are three full time paid staff members: James Rollin, ministry assistant and trainee reader, James Munro, Youth and Children's worker and Adam Heaton, Youth and Children's Worker. We have moved to two full time youth workers post-pandemic, As we recognise a particular need to resource this area of ministry. The ministry team meet for prayer every Tuesday and Thursday morning.



We have two secretaries, who together work 30 hours: Diane Whiteside and Liz Hardwick. We also have a reader, Richard Lindop, who is an active member of the team. Both churches have an active laity, involved in Sunday services and throughout the week.

Both churches run a number of small groups, currently 9 at Duffield and 3 at Little Eaton. We also run a monthly joint benefice prayer meeting, and regular training for both congregations, including a 42

week Bible Overview / Church History / Christian Living course on a three week cycle.

We work closely with William Gilbert Church of England school in Duffield, and are also increasingly involved with the other schools in the benefice, mostly through assemblies (at the moment). We work with the DCC (Duffield Council of Churches) in Duffield, which brings together Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic and an independent church. We are always looking for opportunities to explore whether something new and different will reach the community better, and are working to re-order the internals of St Paul's in order to reach out to the local community more effectively.

Both churches have passed a resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration, and receive the ministry of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet.

Vision and Priorities

Both churches seek to reach out into their local communities through sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. We recognise the importance of mission both at home and abroad, and that mission in its widest sense encompasses all that we do as followers of Christ.

At St Alkmund's our Mission Statement is Devoted to God and Devoted to One Another, and under this statement we seek to grow wider in reaching more people with the Good News of Jesus, grow higher in pursuing Christ-like character together, and deeper in our knowledge and love for Christ and His People.



We have had this statement in place since 2018, following a congregational vision day in April 2018. We have recently renewed our vision with another congregational vision day in October 2022, and are looking forward to implementing this vision over the next few years.

At St Paul's we seek to Reach, Teach, Tend and Send, and recently renewed this vision, at a congregational vision day in early 2023.

The Incumbent: Rev Dr James Hughes

Contact information: The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Duffield, DE56 4EB 07966 026723

E-mail address: james.t.hughes@btopenworld.com

Date of ordination: June 2003

Length of time in present parish(es): seven years

Other responsibilities and duties currently undertaken by incumbent: Area Dean of Dove and Derwent (from September 2023)

Previous posts and experience of incumbent:

Associate Vicar of St John's Hartford and Minister of Christ Church Greenbank
Chester Diocese,
April 2007 to September 2016

This principally involved being minister of Christ Church, a church plant in one part of the parish of Hartford and Greenbank; I assisted in the training and support of two curates during this time, both of whom are now vicars.

Curate, Christ Church Virginia Water
Guildford Diocese
June 2003 to April 2007

Virginia Water was a large church and a busy parish, so I got lots of experience in many different types of ministry, Working with an excellent training incumbent.

How does the incumbent understand the role of training?

Training provides the opportunity for the trainee and trainer to learn together. It should be focussed on the needs of the individual, with a view to their future ministry, not the present needs of the parish. It should provide a solid foundation for future ministry as a reflective practitioner.

What is the likely role of the curate in future plans?

The role of the curate will depend on the particular gifts of the curate. There are opportunities in all areas of ministry for development, for new initiatives, for change and challenge, and to be equipped for the future.

Areas of particular responsibility for curate in training:

No particular responsibilities are assigned to the curate, but there are plenty of opportunities.

The Diocesan Vision Summary

Vision statement

The Kingdom of God: good news for all

Mission statement

To proclaim afresh in this generation the good news of the Kingdom

Our values

Generous Faith
Courageous Hope
Life-Giving Love

Missional aims

Transformed Lives
Growing Church
Building Community

Diocesan interventions

Equipping people for mission
Shaping structures for mission
Sustaining resources for mission



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community
THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

If you would be interested in exploring this post further, please contact:

The Revd Ben Griffiths
ben.griffiths@derby.anglican.org
01332 388693

The Revd Dwayne Engh
dwayne.engh@derby.anglican.org
07425 60421

or
Revd James Hughes
James.t.hughes@btoopenworld.com
07966 026723