



Swadlincote Minster

Comprising the parishes of:
St John Newhall, St Georges and St Mary Gresley, Emanuel Swadlincote and St Peter's Hartshorne



Please note within this curacy you will work across all 4 Churches, in a setting which is very much transitioning to a complex and diverse mixed mode of being church. With inherited traditional models, fresh expressions and developing new worshipping communities. Plus exploring and developing new roles for stipendiary staff and the role of laity within leadership.

Together form Swadlincote minster – A Dispersed Minster is defined as a group of churches intentionally, structurally, and strategically sharing resources (people, money, material) to support the collective mission and ministry offered across a defined and contextually-appropriate geographical area. Unlike other Minsters this excludes the designation of one church as a Minster, and of one Incumbent as the leader for the Minster. The Minster is Part of Mercia Deanery in the Archdeaconry of Derby City and South Derbyshire.

Stipendiary Staff

Rev Patrick Douglas will be the Training Incumbent.

Contact details patrickdouglas62@gmail.com 07968503447

I was ordained in 2013 and have been here in Swadlincote for nearly 6 years. As part time priest in charge of St Johns and pioneer minister for Swadlincote. I am the core Team leader for the Greenhouse Project within The Diocese of Derby, a way of supporting and encouraging Fresh Expressions and New Worshipping Communities. I have previously supported one curate through their training.

Rev Mike Fairbank.

My name is Mike Firbank (Rev Dr). I was an inner-city teacher until the age of 30. I worked as curate and then incumbent in Cornwall for 9 years, setting up a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center, starting Street Pastor Teams across West Cornwall, and a Foodbank+ center. I work across Swadlincote Minster and I also help to lead a charity that supports 100+ work-based volunteer Chaplains across Derbyshire. I believe in the need and potential to radically change the institution of the church from the ground up, as well as building a church that is safe and inclusive of all (including LGBT+ people at all levels and in all ways).

Rev Alison Redshaw

Contact details revalisonr@gmail.com 07986527293

I was ordained in 2010 and have been here in Swadlincote for nearly 10 years. As part time priest in the Minster I'm mainly at Emmanuel but do work across all 4 churches.

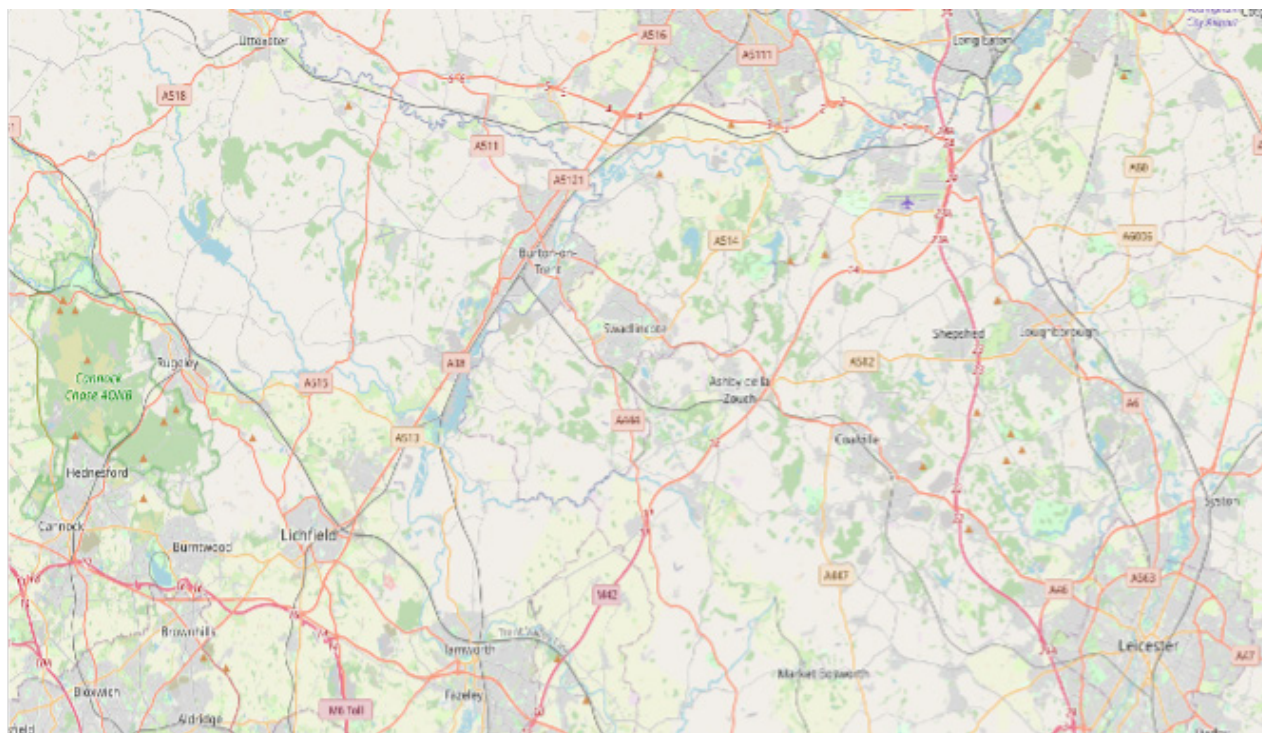
The context: the parish setting

Swadlincote is the main town of South Derbyshire with a population of about 40,000 and growing at a rapid rate. Historically it has been an area of major industrialization with potteries pipe works and being the center of the South Derbyshire coal mining area, nearly all of these industries have closed and the town has suffered a considerable time of decline and deprivation both industrially and socially, which the town is now slowly recovering from with some new light industries and as a commuter town for local large urban conurbations such as Derby, Birmingham, Loughborough, and Litchfield.

Swadlincote is a town of 2 parts in many ways there is the new commuter town with some large and still expanding estates both within and on the edges of the town, plus new shops such as Costa and Prezzo and an Odeon cinema, then the older parts of town which in many ways still reflects the older industrial age of the town. There is a factor of Low social mobility, The Social Mobility Commission's 2017 State of the Natoo report ranked South Derbyshire as 311th out of the 324, English Local Authority Areas for social mobility. This is reflected in other statistics, with adults with a degree and adults with 5+ GCSEs being significantly below the county and national averages. There are significant areas of urban priority, and poor housing in some parts of the town, which contrast starkly with new housing estates. The Town is still going through a significant social and demographic change in both industry and population.

As the main population center for South Derbyshire the town has good facilities including a leisure center with swimming pool, library, good parks and open spaces, a dry ski center, 4 major supermarkets a Weatherspoon's pub, a police station, fire and ambulance station, and a large health Center. The town also has the offices of South Derbyshire Council. There are 3 secondary Schools and 15 Primary schools, including 2 Church schools.

The Town has good road links to some major motorways and sits at the heart of England, there are good bus links to Derby and Burton on Trent, which have the nearest train stations. Swadlincote sits at the heart of the National Forest and a lot of restoration of old mine and clay workings has taken place creating open space and forest areas open to the public including Roslinton forestry center and the Conkers the National forestry centre.



The Churches

The way we have been working here is a bit different for the last 4 years we have been in a loose cooperative way of working, in the style of a dispersed Minster That we have called Swadlincote Minster.

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We are now in the process of working with the Diocese to formally become a Group ministry of 4 churches and PCC's.

The 4 Churches are:

St John Newhall – middle of the road

St Georges Gresley – charismatic evangelical

Emanuel Swadlincote – evangelical and traditional

St Peters Hartshorne – charismatic evangelical



Services

St Johns. 10 am Sunday service, alternating Communion and Morning Prayer 10

St Georges. 10 am 25/30 morning worship with monthly communion. Primary lay led services. Currently meeting in the Church Community Centre building due to temporary closure of church building

St Peters 10.45 morning worship with monthly communion, 35

Emanuel 10am alternating pattern of communion and morning/evening worship and 6.30 40 +2

5th Sunday Joint Minster service, - all 4 parishes join for a communion service. This rotates round the 4 churches.

Electoral roll numbers:

Gresley 109

Hartshorne 65

Swadlincote 45

Newhall 27

Vision and Priorities

Vision

Working together for God's Kingdom by reaching out to communities across Swadlincote and seeing everyone flourish.

Aims

To transform lives by helping everyone to grow and flourish and increasing the number of disciples.

To grow church by creating opportunities to plant Christian communities and to transform existing worship to promote God's Kingdom.

To build community by being active in transforming social issues across Swadlincote in partnership with other groups and agencies.

How does the incumbent understand the role of training?

My role as a trainer is in two parts. I need to prepare the Curate for life as a priest in the church of England, so that they are familiar and adept to work within the formularies and workings of the Church of England, within this to ensure that they are competent and confident in the duties that a vicar will undertake as part of their ministry in the Church.

Also, as the trainer I am looking to advise, encourage and guide the curate in their faith journey and in discovering the ministry that they have been called to by God. To look for both their gifts and weaknesses, their skills and talents to help them grow, to be an encourager and a challenger for them as they learn to live life under their calling by God, within the Church of England.

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

Developing a team of people and leading them to engage in a significant mission work or creation of a New worshipping community, playing to the curate's interest and strengths, within the minster structure and area. Plus, a wide variety of learning opportunities within the inherited models of church within the minster. As the 4 Churches learn and work together to become an effective group ministry. A Curate will be working across all 4 churches and interacting with 4 PCC's and the Minster Leadership Team.

Here in Swadlincote we are developing a Mixed Ecology of Church you will need to be able to engage with that model of the Mixed Ecology Church and what it means for you as an ordained leader freshexpressions.org.uk/the-mixed-ecology/

To be part of a team that is about working with lay people to take the initiative in creating opportunities for growth (rather than volunteer for something pre-determined for them) and then support and equip them contextually on that journey. This curacy application is supported by all the ministers within the Minster.

Areas of particular responsibility for curate in training

See above.

The curate will be involved as an enabler within the Mercia deanery Greenhouse.

Any additional information the incumbent feels it is important to give at this stage:

Someone with a Mission mentality who is not afraid of trying new things and experimenting but is also happy and comfortable in traditional church settings and services.

This is a complex place to be a curate working across 4 Churches and several Fresh expressions and developing New worshipping communities you need to be someone who can work in a team and on their own, while remaining part of a loose team.

Someone with a real heart for building God's Kingdom, helping people come to know and commit to Jesus, wherever they are.

A person Excited about the future of the Church of England, who is exploring allowing God to shape their life and ministry.

Many churches have excellent mission strategies – ours is reliant upon us being able to open up new opportunities both within the existing churches and in Mission as God leads us here. This means that we are having to initiate several complex and costly changes in order to actually set God's people free from many decades of an overly clerical, congregational, and institutional model. We, as with much of the national church, are discovering that we have spectacularly failed to set God's people free.

We currently have several lay people (not Readers) who are frequently in charge on a Sunday morning - leading services and preaching, and who lead small groups, and who are learning how to plant new expressions of church. However, we continue to discover that most lay people are still culturally very reliant upon a clerical model that leads them and controls. As clergy we are discovering just how costly it can be (in terms of how much we need to change) in order to move from a high control/low accountability model to one of low control/high accountability.

We are learning to bear the cost of this way of building church across the community in an ever changing, challenging, and demanding ministry, whilst learning how to hold onto an eschatological hope that is real for you, for others and lived daily.

This means that this is a complex and can be a demanding place to work, which calls for flexibility and openness to change and experimentation, that may lead to some things not working. A willingness to celebrate good things and admit when we get it wrong and say sorry.

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

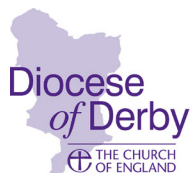
Generous Faith
Courageous Hope
Life-Giving Love

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 Patrick Douglas
patrickdouglas62@gmail.com
07968503447