

Carlford Benefice – Assistant Priest (Part time)

Summary

The Carlford Benefice is looking for a part time Assistant Priest who would like to join the established ministry team and minister across our nine parishes. The primary focus would be to lead and develop Sunday services with the team in a ‘middle of the road’ tradition. We are looking for someone who would join us and build relationships on three Sundays a month with two/three days in the week as a house for duty priest or based on a similar arrangement.

The Carlford Benefice

We are the nine churches of Ashbocking, Boulge, Burgh, Clopton, Culpho, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Otley and Swilland 6 miles north east of Ipswich and 4 miles west of Woodbridge. The benefice has a rural population of 3,750 people (40% in Grundisburgh) with around 20% under 16 and 20% over 65.

Local employers other than the farms are the schools, pubs, Otley College, BT, and a range of organisations in Ipswich.

The congregations are mostly drawn from each village or with connections to the village; only Boulge has a primarily gathered congregation. Some villages are spread-out or the church is away from most dwellings but it remains important to the village.

We have good connections with the two primary schools in Grundisburgh and Otley through our schools work. We also run a monthly Messy Church, a toddlers group, an after school club and an Off the bus group for High school children (in partnership with Just 42).

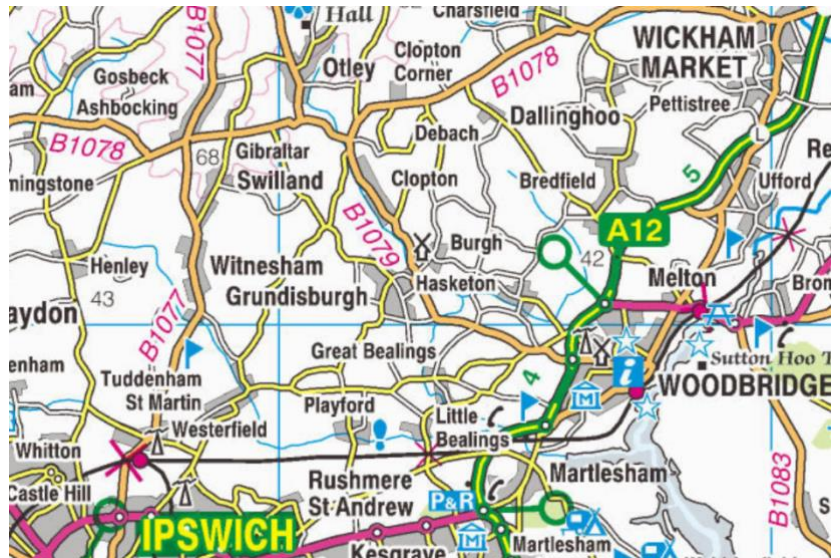
We are a caring community and many activities are run by lay people from the congregations. These include study and prayer groups, coffee mornings, support groups, children’s activities, a men’s group, and collections for a foodbank.

We are looking for

We are looking for a part time Assistant Priest who:

- Can be a warm friendly welcoming presence in our churches and communities.
- Can enable encounter with God through worship, with people of all ages in sacramental and non-sacrament services.
- Puts people at the centre of their ministry, enjoys being with people, and taking part in all kinds of community activities.

Depending on individual calling, activities might include children’s and young people’s work, coffee morning involvement, spiritual exploration through art, development new forms of worship particularly using more modern music.



We are looking for a Priest who can offer on a house for duty basis 3 Sundays per month and 2/3 days during the week. We are also keen to talk to those who can offer similar time but remain in their existing accommodation.

Our Wider Ministry team

Our ministry team currently comprises of:

- Mark, our Rector.
- James and Jane, two Readers who both preach and lead services, one (the diocesan registrar) regularly and one (a prison chaplain) according to her availability;
- Sandra our Children and Families minister who oversees our portfolio of children's activities and leads family services.
- Supported by Martin and Bill (SSM priests who take monthly services)
- We have a number of licensed Elders in the Benefice: Jenny, Molly, Dot, Doris, Linda and Judith and three due to be licensed this September.

Our Services

In the past years, with the current ministry team, most churches have had one Holy Communion service a month and Grundisburgh has had an 8am and 11am service every week. Some have a second, Elder led, morning prayer each month. If there is a fifth Sunday, the 11am service (usually) is a benefice service. Messy Church and Evensong takes place once a month in the afternoon. Midweek Holy Communion takes place monthly in Culpho with morning prayer on several mornings a week.

Our worship is generally middle-of-the-road. The framework is from Common Worship with some additions and reflective services (e.g. in Holy Week). The Book of Common Prayer is used at the 8am service at Grundisburgh and at Boulge and Culpho. There are people with backgrounds in various denominations in each congregation. (Typically 4 services per Sunday).

Our rural congregations are committed. Even in Grundisburgh (the largest congregation) many are on rotas for reading, leading intercessions, welcome team, sides people and so on. Nevertheless, the ageing in congregations is beginning to result in a shortage of musicians, for example, although a member of Clopton's congregation has learnt to play the organ.

There are about 7 to 10 weddings, 5 baptisms and 25 funerals in the benefice each year. Ipswich hospital (with A&E), Ipswich cemetery and Seven Hills crematorium are all approximately a 15-minute drive from Grundisburgh. The rural context and a significant number of people with small incomes mean that transport and housing are significant matters for people living in the benefice.

Accommodation

For those that are interested in a House for Duty role the Rectory is available. It is a modern four-bedroomed house in a secluded location at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac but only a few minutes' walk to the centre of Grundisburgh. The house stands in the middle of a generous garden.

For more information about the role please contact the Rector, Mark Cresswell, mark@carlfordchurches.org, Phone: 07770 220149. We have a website at carlfordchurches.org with recent news and newsletters.

