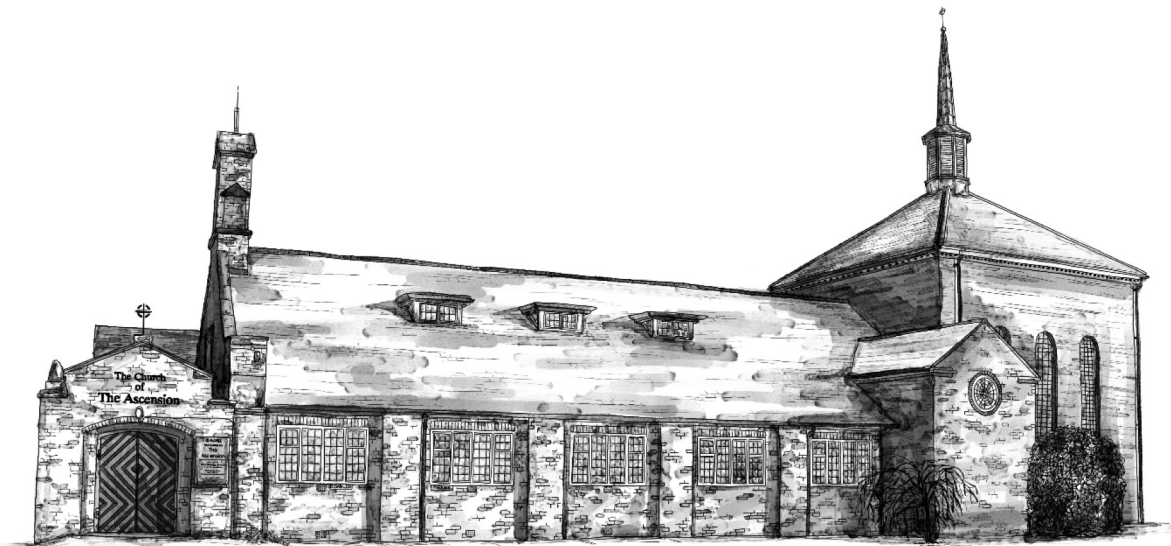


Associate Vicar Parish Profile



**The Parish Churches of The Ascension and St Thomas'
Derringham Bank, Hull**

Greetings in Christ's name!



Thank you for prayerfully discerning God's calling to The Ascension and St. Thomas', Derringham Bank, Hull and also to the East Riding Archdeaconry in the Diocese of York. We trust this profile will begin to give you an understanding of the church and parish, but above all, we welcome you to come and meet us here!

This post has become available at a very significant time in the life of the Diocese. We have committed together in *Living*

Christ's Story to being people who tell the story of Jesus' life death and resurrection and who also tell the continuing story of what Jesus has done through his church, which includes what Jesus has done and continues to do through each of our own lives. These are times that require us to be simple, humble and bold.

To make the vision of *Living Christ's Story* a reality, our diocesan goals are:

- Becoming more like Christ
- Reaching people we currently don't
- Growing churches of missionary disciples
- Transforming our finances and structures

You can explore this vision and our commitment to this journey on our Diocesan website.

This Associate Vicar role is full of exciting opportunities for someone who is open evangelical and feels called to pioneering among children, young people and families. As you will see from the profile a new vicar was licensed in January 2024 with the purpose of working with the existing church family and a team moving from St Michael Le Belfrey, York to do a Church Plant Revitalisation, is working towards becoming a Resource Church. The churches also bring variety in their styles of worship and approach. There is a genuine warmth and generosity within the churches but also a commitment to change and reaching those they currently do not. The church is very honest about their current challenges to reach out into the community and share God's love in an economically challenging parish. They are excited about this new season and looking forward with faith and anticipation to what the next chapter of their life will bring.

As a Diocese we pray together the prayer of Teresa of Avila, "Lord, what do you want from me?" This is our prayer for *Living Christ's Story*. We pray this prayer particularly for you in this time of discernment. We hope that you will hear Christ's call clearly and we look forward to prayerfully sharing this discernment with you.

Please contact the Rev'd Samantha Taylor, the acting archdeacon by phone (01723 658073) or by email (ader@yorkdiocese.org) if you have questions or would like a fuller picture than the Profile offers. We want to do all we can to support you as you explore and discern this call.

With our prayers,

+Eleanor (Bishop of Hull)

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile. We are praying for you as you discern if God is calling you to this role. This is an exciting time in the life of The Ascension and St Thomas' (AST) in the parish of Derringham Bank, Hull. The Bishop of Hull licensed a new vicar (Rev Vicky Earll) in January 2024 with the purpose of working with the existing church family and a team moving from St Michael Le Belfrey, York to do a Church Plant Revitalisation, and work towards becoming a Resource Church.



About us

The Church family of AST is made up of just under 30 loving and faithful people, many who have been part of the church for decades. After the former vicar had served for 31 years in the role, the church family pulled together to keep their Sunday services going and to work towards increasing their finances so that both church buildings could remain open. After much prayer and hard work they were successful in both goals. Whilst change is of course challenging, love for God and heart to see the church move from decline to growth is enabling them to embrace it. To gain a picture of where the church was at during the interregnum please read the Parish Profile written in 2023 which can be provided upon request.

In the summer of 2024 a team of people from The Belfrey who are mostly aged 18-25 will move to Hull. They together with the vicar and existing church family have five aims:

- Love Hull (Social Action)
- Make Disciples (Evangelism)
- Nurture Disciples (Discipleship)
- Develop Leaders
- Plant Churches

All of this is undergirded by prayer, worship and building relationships and community.



These aims fit well with the church's 2023 mission statement,

"We want our churches to be growing, Christ-shaped, a community, inclusive of all, encouraging a whole life discipleship expressed by being a ministering congregation, rooted in the local community but fully engaged with the world around us, with God at its centre."

Those moving to Hull from The Belfrey come from a charismatic evangelical tradition and the existing church would describe itself as open evangelical, valuing good Bible teaching with an informal style of liturgical worship. This will be reflected in the services offered on Sundays. The morning service will continue to alternate between each church building with an informal liturgical style; and a new charismatic evangelical style evening service will start in September 2024 at The Ascension.

Since arriving in Hull the new Vicar has been organising her time around six priorities:

- Building relationship with the existing church family
- Mission: asking which missional doors is God opening?
- Discipleship
- Worship
- Operations: there is a lot of work to be done and funding has been found to appoint an Operations Manager
- Buildings: while St Thomas' is in a good state of repair, The Ascension needs extensive repair work to reach its full potential. This work will be headed up by someone moving from York who has professional experience of overseeing building projects in the Church of England in collaboration with the church wardens and PCC.



About Hull and Derringham Bank

Hull has a unique culture. It is a former fishing port which was the second most bombed city in World War II; according to the IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation) 2019, Hull is ranked as the 4th most deprived local authority in England and in many ways the local culture is 20-40 years behind the rest of the country (which is certainly not a bad thing!); and due to being at the end of the line transport wise it can be quite insular.



However, it is full of creativity, has a high value on relationships & family, and has the friendliest people perhaps in the whole country. The city loves its football team and there is a friendly rivalry from east to west between the two rugby teams. People tend to stay in Hull with multiple generations of family living nearby to one another. In 2017 the city gained 'City of Culture' status which led to great pride and investment in the city. It has a rich history in standing for issues of social justice being the home of the slave trade abolitionist, William Wilberforce and the Headscarf Revolutionaries (women who fought for better working conditions for workers on the trawlers). Whilst being a city full of Hull born people, it is also home to Hull University and welcomes students from around the world. As a City of Sanctuary it welcomes Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

The Benefice of Derringham Bank consists of one parish with two churches less than a mile apart: The Ascension and St Thomas. The parish was the first wave of suburban housing in Hull, initially built in the 1930s – 1950s and so sits on the western side of Hull, between the City Centre and the newer wealthier suburbs. More recently there has been significant areas of new housing built locally. It is just over one square mile with a population of 15500, around 20% of whom fall within the 20% of most deprived Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). As a result of this church plant revitalisation it is envisaged that local people will come to faith but also that some transference will occur, with major roads running east – west through the parish enabling travel to the churches to be very easy.



It is anticipated that some students will be reached, with many students new to Hull living within a mile of the parish and it being noticeable that Hull has a high proportion of students living at home.

About the role

The post of Associate Vicar is funded by central church funds in view of the church's new status as a resource church and to catalyse the developing vision for mission and growth across the deanery of Hull led by The Rt. Rev Dr Eleanor Sanderson, Bishop of Hull. Hull has the lowest church attendance for any major urban conurbation in Britain and the need for fresh missionary energy is vital. The hope is that the Associate Vicar would together with the Vicar and the rest of the church learn to do contextual mission in Hull and grow the church in Derringham Bank with a view to both the associate and a curate taking teams to plant/revitalise other churches in the city of Hull within a 6 year timeframe. One of the barriers to church growth, at times, is incoming clergy failing to understand the local culture. Derringham Bank is a 'typical Hull' parish and therefore it is hoped that plants from here will already have made these cultural adjustments.

Whilst church planting is the medium-term goal, initially the Associate Vicar will concentrate on growing the church in Derringham Bank. This will require a lot of listening and reflecting. Listening to God, church members and the people in the parish. The Associate Vicar's focus alongside regular clergy duties shared with the Vicar, will be to focus on mission to and discipleship of children, youth and families. The Associate Vicar will line manage the Youth and Community Pioneer who is expected to be in September 2024. Together they will pioneer a youth and community centre at St Thomas' which is intergenerational. The Associate Vicar will oversee the development of engagement with, and provision for children and families at the Sunday morning service.

Although the church does not currently have any children, youth or families, we envision opportunities and great potential to reach them through:

- Engagement with the three primary schools in the parish who the previous incumbent had a close relationship with
- Engagement with the uniform organisations based at The Ascension
- Engagement with families through occasional offices
- Building on existing relationships through community events that happen at the churches and grandchildren of church members
- Enabling Sunday services to become more welcoming and appropriate for children, youth and families

It is anticipated that alternative ways of worshipping may emerge from this work which engage with those who wouldn't attend the existing Sunday services.

About you

As all clergy are called primarily to live as Missionary Disciples of Jesus – evidence of this as a lifestyle with strong established rhythms of prayer, worship and reading of the scriptures are essential.

In order to fulfil this role you will need to be humble and flexible with the ability to pioneer new things contextually. A church plant revitalisation is a changing situation and therefore the role may shift and change in response to that. This is why flexibility is essential.

Experience in the following areas or potential to grow into them would be advantageous:

- Discipling people from a variety of backgrounds including those from areas of deprivation
- Leading – including identifying, recruiting, training, deploying and motivating established and emerging leaders.
- Inspired preaching/teaching that engages contextually
- Managing staff and volunteers - including setting objectives and monitoring performance.
- Vision formation – including shaping, casting, communicating and delivering vision.
- Leading and hosting services on a weekly basis both liturgical and charismatic in tradition
- Leading specific church ministries – raising volunteers, managing team, programme and budget.
- Track record of leading something that has grown
- Successful experience of leading missional activities
- Church planting/pioneering new worshipping communities
- Working with children, youth and families
- Working in an area of relative deprivation

The following skills/characteristics are required:

- Confident leadership coming from the posture of humility with the ability to commit to lifelong learning, admit mistakes, reflect and grow
- Think strategically and lead change management process
- Highly effective communicator (written and verbal)
- Relational, proven ability to work well with a diverse group of people
- Emotionally intelligent and aware of own strengths and limitations.
- Team leader and player – empowering, supportive, natural collaborator, developer of people
- Highly self-motivated, self-starter – gets things done

Experience both before ordination and since are all relevant to the above.

Hull as a place to live

Near to both churches is a small shop row, both on County Road South and Hotham Road South, with a convenience store, hairdressers, and takeaway there is also a pub in very close vicinity to both churches and a cafe. There are three primary schools within the parish with Secondary schools and Wyke Sixth Form College close by.

Hull has two major hospitals- Hull Royal Infirmary and Castle Hill Hospital, both have a great reputation locally and specialise in different areas.

Very close to the Parish although not in it is- The Anlaby Retail Park, with Morrisons, M & S, Iceland, Asda Living, Boots, Next and Costa. A little further away is the Willerby Shopping Area- which includes Waitrose, Aldi, Lidl and Home Bargains.



In Hull City Centre- there are many places to eat and drink, with three shopping centres with varying shops in, historically places of interest such as the Museum Quarter, City Hall, Hull Minister, St Mary's Lowgate, Ferens Art Gallery and the Marina and Pier are well worth a visit too. Two fantastic theatres to visit in both Hull New Theatre and Hull Truck Theatre. Hull is a fantastic place to live and work and it is well worth coming to see what Hull has to offer.

Terms and conditions

We are committed to housing the Associate locally to enable them to live in the parish and identify with its people. The Diocese is currently seeking to buy a four bedroomed house. The relative shortage of such properties means that this may not be a 'typical vicarage' but we will ensure that it is a four bedroomed house.

Conclusion

Thank you for reading our Parish Profile. If you would like to find out more information or would like an informal chat please contact our vicar – Vicky Earll at revvickyyearll@gmail.com or Archdeacon Andy Broom at ader@yorkdiocese.org.