

Parish Profile for Training Parishes/Benefices

This form should be completed by all training parishes/benefices, to be supplied to prospective ordinands. Once a title is agreed this document will become the curates' Role Description (see final page)

A copy of the parish or team's Mission Action Plan (or equivalent) should be included with this profile.

Who should be contacted in the first instance:

If for any reason the prospective curate should contact someone other than the Incumbent please give name, address, and telephone number and e-mail address

General Information

Name of Benefice/Parish	Luton
Deanery	Luton
Archdeaconry	Beds
Diocese	St Albans
Number of Churches in Benefice	1
Clergy and Readers (and any other parish workers)	Vicar, SSM + various retired clergy; 1 ft Youth and Community Minister. Various part -time posts
Is there a Local Ministry Team?	No

Have any of the resolutions under the Priest (Ordination of Women) Measure been passed?
No

How has the parish/benefice been prepared to receive a training curate? Describe the congregations understanding and expectations of a first post curate. If this is yet to happen how will the congregation be prepared?

This has been a training parish in living memory and everyone is used to the journey.

Incumbent Details

Incumbent's name	Mike Jones
Preferred style	Revd Canon
Address	32 Whitehill Ave Luton
Telephone number	07834 359671
E-mail address	mikejones@stmarysluton.org
Date of ordination:	2005 Priest
Length of time in present post:	11 years

Any other responsibilities and duties currently undertaken by incumbent: [As vicar of a Major Church there are various local responsibilities](#)

Previous posts and experience of incumbent, including details of any previous experience as a Training Incumbent (curate and Reader)

[TI of 5 curates previously. 3 British. 2 African.](#)

What is the incumbent's understanding of the role of the Training Incumbent?

[To enable a curate to have a flourishing ministry 5 years into their first post. Giving them the foundations all ministers need while enabling them to develop their own style and try new things.](#)

How is the incumbent committed to supporting the curate's ongoing training and development including through the requirements of Common Tenure?

[In every way possible to enable the above to happen. Placements, trainings, experiences, opportunities to start new things and fail.](#)

Nature of post

Please tick which are applicable:

Yes	Training post for deacon who expects to be ordained priest
Possibly	Training post for permanent deacon

[If the second is needed we could fulfil that if it would be of service](#)

The context: the parish/benefice setting

Please indicate: location, size of population, geographical spread of area served and distances involved, types of housing, kinds of job people do, availability of public transport, institutions (e.g. hospitals, schools, old peoples' homes), social mix, and other salient features. It may be helpful to include a simple map to help to indicate the setting of the parish.

Please also indicate from the following the main broad category (or categories), as you think most accurate:

	Rural	Yes	Urban
	Semi-rural	Yes	Large Town centre
	Country town		Inner city
	Industrial		Housing estate
	Suburban		

If a Team Ministry, Group Ministry or LEP, please give a general description of it:

The Church(es)

Ecclesiastical tradition, if there is more than one church please indicate the tradition in each church:

- [Charismatic / Open Evangelical. Intercultural church](#)
- [Conservative membership](#)
- [Peacemaking and reconciliation](#)
- [Clergy do not pray for same sex blessings](#)

Electoral roll number(s): [140](#)

Pattern of Sunday worship - please indicate services, times, forms of service used, and usual Sunday attendance:

9am Common Worship

10:30am 1st Sunday All Age; other weeks informal liturgical charismatic worship

11:30am 1st Sunday of the month. African Praise and Worship

- Weekday services: Wednesdays 11am service; monthly this is Holy Communion
- Occasional Offices: approximate numbers each year of 20 baptisms, 4 weddings, and 6 funerals in the church. More at the crematorium.:
- Pattern of daily offices: Mondays staff prayers; Wednesdays with congregation
- Lay involvement: We have over 100 volunteers. The church is focused on enabling lay ministry
- House, study and prayer groups: 5 of these. Currently a mix of Bible study, Alpha, Connexus (wellbeing)

Parochial organizations:

- **Worship and Ministry Groups:** 9am Service Team; 10:30am Service Team; Welcome Wednesday Service Team; Shona Language Service; Cultural Ambassadors; Dynamic Praise & Worship (African style); Community Choir; Bell Ringers; Screens-Audio-Streaming (SAS) Team; Social team
- **Children and Youth Ministry:** Young Church; Impact; Deeper Impact; Sunday Youth; 16+ Student Group; Schools Team;
- **Pastoral and Discipleship Groups:** Pastoral Care Team; PrayerNet Team; Bible Study Groups (Tuesday and Thursday); The Seekers; Calm Zone Group; Restarting Group; Sunday Get Together Home Group;
- **Outreach and Mission:** St. Mary's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation; The Feast Partnership; Luton Community Chaplaincy; Detached Youth Work; Schools Ministry; Coffee Pop-up (planned);
- **Administration and Operations:** PCC; Standing Committee; Church Oversight Group (COG); Buildings Liaison Team; Finance Committee; HR Group; Hirings Committee; Way Ahead Team;
- **Service Support Teams:** Sacristans Team; Welcomers Team; Refreshments Team; Flower Arrangers; Maintenance Team; Cleaning Team;
- **Special Ministry Teams:** All Age Worship Team; Home Communion Team; Men's Ministry; Mission Partners Support;

Areas of particular mission and ministry of parish(es) (e.g. schools, hospitals, industry, prison, youth, elderly people, single parents, homeless, healing):

Purpose: We seek to be a vibrant international church where people meet Jesus, love like Jesus and live out his healing love for Luton.

These are expressed through our:

- Children, youth and family ministry.
- Peace, reconciliation and intercultural ministry.
- Hospitality and welcome through our medieval building and heritage ministry.
- Being a Mature Christian Family: Welcome and community building, worship, discipleship and growing to maturity.
- Practical service, community building and mission.

We seek that all ministries are simple, sustainable and joyful.

Aspects of ministry include:

- **Schools Ministry:** Primary School Visits; heritage; School Assemblies;; Education About Christian Faith; current curate is a school governor
- **Youth Work:** Impact Program; Detached Youth Work in Manor Park; Minecraft Server; Youth Lock-In Events; Partnership with Youthscape; The Feast Interfaith Youth Work;
- **Community Support:** Welcome Wednesday Open Church; Food Distribution from M&S Donations; Pastoral Support Fund for Those in Need; Coffee Pop-up (planned);
- **Peace and Reconciliation:** Interfaith Dialogue; Community Tensions Response; Peace Services; Holy Land Conflict Education; Town Centre Community Relations;
- **Town Centre Ministry:** Heritage and Visitors Ministry; University of Bedfordshire Chaplaincy Support;
- **Special Needs Groups:** Mental Health Support; Older People's Ministry (The Seekers); Family Support;
- **Cultural Diversity:** Nigerian Christian Community; South Asian Heritage Ministry; International Anglican Community; Intercultural Welcome through Cultural Ambassadors;
- **Wellbeing:** Life Model; Heart Sync Prayer; Joyskills; Connexus; Retreat in Daily Life;
- **Evangelism:** Alpha; Welcoming Wednesday;

Opportunities for the development of fresh expressions of church:

- Wellbeing Alpha: Developing Alpha with a wellbeing component targeting local British Lutonians seeking faith and mental health support.
- Power Court Outreach: Creating a matchday welcome ministry connecting with football fans, utilizing church grounds as External Zone for the new stadium (2028);
- Intercultural Worship / Fellowships: Depending on where we are in 2026: Expanding Dynamic Praise & Worship services; or growing intercultural fellowships to build a vibrant international expression of church;
- Recovery Church: Establishing a community hub/recovery church focusing on addiction support and mental health needs;
- Youth-Led Faith Community: Growing the 16+ Student group into a self-sustaining youth-led worshipping community;

- Digital Church: Revitalizing online ministry through streaming and potentially relaunching digital youth work;
- Heritage-Based Faith Exploration: Developing spiritual tourism experiences that connect heritage visitors to faith exploration;
- Detached Youth Work Evolution: Building a community-based faith expression from the Manor Park detached youth work;
- Town Centre Hospitality Ministry: Using the Coffee Pop-up as foundation for a hospitality-centered community of faith;

Congregations(s) mainly gathered:

Co-operation with other local churches, including...

Pattern of Deanery chapter and synod meetings – we play a full part in these

Opportunities for co-operation for training purposes within the deanery – I send all curates out of Luton for experiences either to the cathedral or somewhere more rural. If they are from overseas I will also send them to churches from a mix of churchmanships – progressive, catholic, conservative evangelicals

Ecumenical relationships and pattern of meetings We work with the town centre protestant churches for Easter and Christmas; fully engaged in CTL. Attend annual breakfasts, meetups etc.

Pattern of staff meetings and PCC/DCC meetings with a brief description of how each functions

- Staff Meetings: Monday mornings weekly; Includes prayer, pastoral support, planning, and discussion of ministry matters. Staff team have a pastor that they can go to for support.
- PCC Meetings: Six times per year; Begins with devotional time and prayer; Safeguarding is a standing agenda item; Regular reports from Finance Team, Buildings Liaison Team, and other subcommittees; Mission Action Plan regularly discussed;
- PCC Subcommittee Meetings: Finance Committee (meets 6 times per year); Buildings Liaison Team (met 5 times in 2024); HR Group (meets as needed); Hirings Committee (met several times in 2024); Way Ahead/COG (meets 9 times per year); new: Strategic team launching.

Any other activities or comments:

- **As a Major Church** in a complex context St Mary's offers challenging yet manageable opportunities for ministry.
- **Diversity:** This is a diverse town with diverse congregation there is always something new to learn. We do need people able to learn and adapt and not to have an anglocentric perspective
 - GMH: We welcome GMH applicants

- **Deprived:** Working in the poorest 10% of areas with incredible turnover of people or middle-class only world view which seeks to copy middle class British christianity
- **Can Do Attitude:** Throughout my tenure, I've been instrumental in fostering spiritual growth and working against enormous numerical decline; engaging youth and children's ministry, helping the church engage beyond the walls especially through the Peace Centre and creating a flourishing loving community. This is in a place of churn and change. Ministry here requires a can-do attitude.
- **Spiritual and Personal Maturity:** There is a perspective of learning and personal development which curates need to be able to embrace while bringing their own unique insights too

Any areas of particular responsibility or opportunity for curates:

There are endless opportunities for responsibility within the ministries outlined

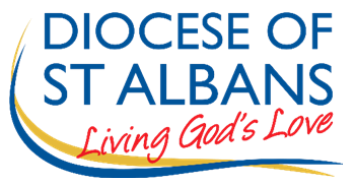
Accommodation:

The curate uses the St Matthews Vicarage which was once the vicarage for the top half of the parish which has now combined with the town centre. Joseph (our current curate) will have vacated it by then. It complies with classic 1960s / 70s vicarage characteristics – 4 beds, study, garden garage etc.

Financial:

What is the arrangement for the reimbursement of expenses of office? **In full**

Is the PCC able to finance, or part finance, an annual retreat for the curate? If so what budget is available to the curate for this? **Yes. We have no particular budget. Included are our own Retreats in Daily Life (Ignatian Retreat); New Wine for the curate only (family have to pay their own way) or a 1 day visit to New Wine for curate + partner.**



Role Description for a Title Post Curate

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This final page will be added to the Parish Profile after the curacy is agreed; once signed the whole document forms the Curate's Role Description. It should be read in conjunction with the Statement of Particulars, and the Learning Agreement.

Role of the Curate

A title post curacy forms the second element of Initial Ministerial Education (IME). In this phase the curates education and training is primarily practice based and focused on the parish/benefice to which they have been appointed. The Curate works alongside an experienced Incumbent and learns from them - by instruction, observation, feedback and reflection. The Curate should expect to play a full part in the life of the parish as described in outline in this profile; in much of this they will share in ministry with the Incumbent and other ministers, in addition some tasks or areas of responsibility may be allotted to, or taken on by, the Curate.

To which prospective TI may add specific roles and expectations - within reason. Detailed roles and expectations will be outlined in the Curate's 'Learning Agreement'

Curacy Start date

Expected end date

If housing contract required:

Date paperwork signed

Signature of Curate confirming this

Diocesan Contact Information First Contact - Ministry Development Office 01727 818151

In case of emergency contact Rural Dean or Archdeacon - details in Diocesan Directory

This Parish Profile and Role Description have been agreed by
Training Incumbent (sign and date)

Training Curate (Sign and date)

IME 4-7 Officer (Sign and date)