

## **Pastoral Assistant for St Benet Fink, Tottenham – North London Pastoral Assistants Scheme (September 2021 – July 2022)**

The Parish of St Benet Fink, Tottenham offers an opportunity to explore vocation by experiencing and contributing to parish ministry and mission in a highly diverse urban context, within the Anglo-Catholic tradition.

### ***What is St Benet's like?***

St Benet's is a growing church, with a typical Sunday congregation of 50-80 people and a worshipping community of c150. We place great emphasis on excellence in terms of music, liturgy, hospitality and welcome. The congregation, reflecting the wider Parish, is highly diverse in terms of background, ethnicity, age and gender. We are deeply committed to prayer, worship and spirituality and are also very passionate about mission and outreach.

We hope that this document provides you with a flavour of the life and ministry of St Benet's. We have, of course, been living through the Covid-19 pandemic which has meant that many of the usual activities in the life of the parish have not been possible. However, we have continued our mission and ministry, making full use of digital tools as well as offering in-person worship, occasional offices and continued pastoral care. Our current pastoral assistant has continued in role during the pandemic, and has played a full part in supporting the life of the parish, albeit in new and adapted ways. We hope to be able to resume our full schedule of ministry and outreach as soon as possible.

### ***What is the wider Parish and living in Tottenham like?***

Our part of Tottenham is an exciting and vibrant place to live. It is home to people of a wide variety of social and cultural backgrounds. Whilst being a densely populated urban area (Pop c10,000), there are also some pleasant green spaces. The area, which is very well connected to Central London, is beginning to benefit from gentrification, with young professionals moving into the area and a range of new bars and restaurants opening. Alongside this are also pockets of significant deprivation (the Parish is within the 10% most deprived in the country). All of this makes this both a challenging and exciting place within which to live and work.

### ***What does this particular post offer?***

- The chance to be a key part of the Ministry Team, including the Vicar, Assistant Priest and Pastoral Assistant and to work with and enable lay members
- The opportunity to take part in and contribute to Pastoral Ministry, children's work, liturgy, teaching and preaching, developing spirituality and discipleship and developing new and creative ideas for mission and outreach
- Excellent opportunities to develop your spiritual life within the Parish, especially through the daily office and the daily Mass
- The ability to shape the role depending on your gifts, interests, vocational and other developmental needs
- Regular supervision from the Vicar and opportunities to work with a good range of lay people on different aspects of Parish life

### ***What we are looking for?***

- An enthusiastic Pastoral Assistant, who is seriously exploring a sense of vocation within the Church of England, with a lively faith
- A willingness to get stuck in and learn across the range of activities involved with the life and mission of the Parish
- - and ideally an ability bring gifts and interests to one or more particular areas of mission and ministry
- An appreciation of the Catholic Anglican tradition – or a strong desire to work within and learn more about/grow to appreciate the riches of that tradition
- Someone who will love the people, seek to serve and has a desire to reach out to the wider community to share the Good News of Jesus

### ***What are some of our particular specialisms and priorities as a Parish at this time?***

- Hospitality and welcome (especially through food and drink) – whether it is; drinks and canapés after our monthly Choral Mass, Evensong and Curry, a parish lunch, social event – or our lively Patronal Festival party!
- Continuing to develop our musical tradition to enhance our liturgy and worship as a key form of outreach
- Use of social and digital media to enable outreach and discipleship
- Work amongst children and families – especially developing and improving our Kids Church programme, launching a more regular holiday club and developing fellowship amongst our young families
- Running a monthly Saturday lunch-club for older members of the community which a previous Pastoral Assistant took a leading role in establishing
- Providing further opportunities for our church community to develop their spirituality and discipleship, building on the Lent courses, bible studies and Quiet Days that have taken place in the past.

### ***Where will I live and how does the Tottenham Pastoral Assistant post fit in with the wider North London Pastoral Assistants scheme (NLPA)?***

You will share a small house (situated nearby in the Parish of S. Mary, Tottenham and next door to the Good Shepherd Church) with the Pastoral Assistant from St Mary's, who is also part of the NLPA. The Tottenham Pastoral Assistants will be part of the wider North London scheme, and you will benefit from the theological, spiritual and vocational development sessions that are provided as part of the wider scheme. You will be part of a wider group of nine Pastoral Assistants across the scheme.

### ***What have previous Pastoral Assistants from St Benet's gone on to do?***

You will be St Benet's seventh Pastoral Assistant. Two of our previous pastoral assistants are now ordained and are serving their curacies and another is hoping to start training for the Priesthood at St Stephen's House, Oxford in the autumn. Our other former pastoral assistants are continuing to explore their vocational journey in various directions.