

Pastoral Assistant for St Benet Fink, Tottenham – North London Pastoral Assistants Scheme (September 2022 – July 2023)

The Parish of S. 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 40-70 people and a worshipping community of c130. 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. During the Covid-19 pandemic when many of the usual activities in the life of the parish had not been possible 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. As we are emerging from the pandemic we have resumed our full schedule of ministry and outreach and seek to build on this. Our most recent pastoral assistant continued in role during the pandemic, and has played a full part in supporting the life of the parish.

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.

Am I the right person?

We'd love a Pastoral Assistant who was keen to get involved with parish life. We're an Anglo-Catholic parish and a willingness to work within the tradition is important, though it doesn't need to be something you're necessarily familiar with already. The Pastoral Assistant should be keen to explore God's call further and to help others do the same.

What accommodation and financial support is available?

The Pastoral Assistant lives alongside two others in a lovely Edwardian house in a quiet part of Tottenham. There's a communal kitchen, garden, dining room and bathroom. Bills are paid for by the Scheme on top of the allowance you receive for living expenses.

What other support is available?

There are up to eight Pastoral Assistants each year in the North London Pastoral Assistant Scheme and they come together for monthly formation sessions which take a variety of formats and topics. This is a good way of providing support and ensuring you can explore further God's plan for you. The Pastoral Assistant also has regular supervisions with Fr James and should have a Spiritual Director.

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 starting 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.