

## **SHRIVENHAM & ASHBURY BENEFICE**

### **JOB DESCRIPTION FOR HOUSE FOR DUTY ASSOCIATE VICAR<sup>1</sup>**

Our vision for the Benefice is to be a place which mirrors the hospitality of God: that is to be welcoming and pastoral, reaching out to those who live, work and study here or who are just passing through. We want people to flourish in ministry so have adopted a collaborative approach, actively encouraging lay involvement and seeking to develop the gifts of each member of the team so that the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts.

Although the Benefice has four parishes, traditionally, two (Ashbury and Longcot with Fernham) have been grouped together as the primary responsibility of a House for Duty Associate Vicar, based in Ashbury, and it is this post for which we are recruiting. However, we believe the benefice is best served when all members of the ministry team are known and welcomed in all churches so they have all been included in the profile.

We are looking for someone who:

- understands and enjoys village life
- welcomes variety and being part of a team
- is willing to be flexible when necessary
- will use their gifts to help develop the life, ministry and mission of the Benefice – particularly to attract young people and their families, which we see as a particular focus for mission

Recognising that the role will average 25 hours a week, this will involve sharing in:

- Planning and leading Sunday and midweek services
- Weekly collective worship and Open the Book in our schools
- Weddings, baptisms and funerals as they arise
- Working in partnership with the Longcot Methodist Chapel and Ashbury Evangelical Free Church
- Attending meetings as necessary – including weekly staff meetings; monthly benefice wardens' meetings and the Ashbury and Longcot with Fernham PCCs

In this you will have the support of the incumbent, LLM, churchwardens, benefice administrator and lay worship leaders. House for duty is Sunday plus the equivalent of two days a week. You should therefore expect to have a minimum of two full (24 hour) days off a week, plus:

- a minimum of four full weeks holiday a year,
- four Sundays off
- an inside week after Christmas and Easter
- an annual retreat of up to three days
- time to attend occasional training events

As this is a part-time post, other leave can be arranged in conjunction with the incumbent.

Please contact the vicar or Area Dean to discuss this post in more detail – we look forward to hearing from you.

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<sup>1</sup> Both the incumbent and the laity within the Benefice recognise the limitations on time for a House for Duty post as outlined in the Bishop of Dorchester's report in 2012. (See: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/House%20for%20Duty%20Guidance.pdf>)