West Mendip Benefice-to-be



Praying for the Appointment Process

The post for our new Priest-in Charge will be advertised on Thursday 26th November. This is a significant and exciting stage of the process, and we can all be involved through prayer. Applications close on January 7th.

Please use this prayer guide to help you pray at home or with others.

"Be still and know that I am God". Psalm 46:10

"This time with God matters to you, to God, to all who depend on you, to all for whom you will pray. It will make a difference". Steve Sylvester.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, thank you for being with us through our vacancies, through the preparation of the Benefice Profile and in advertising for a Priest in Charge. Thank you for the way our parishes have worked together, and the contacts we have made with our communities. As the post is advertised, we pray that candidates will be drawn to it, including the person whom You have chosen to serve our new benefice. May that person hear and respond to your call. We remember all who are seeking your way for their lives and pray that you will make this plain to them. As we pray, may we, too, be open to hear your voice and your call in our own lives.

We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

For any servant of God (including ourselves) looking for "the next step", carries the benefit of God's guidance. Remember times when you have wondered what to do next. Thank God for ways he has directed you and ask that candidates may experience clear guidance.

Prayer around the Advert and Role Description, that candidates will:

- see the advert and that it will stand out from other adverts. That it may resonate with the right people
- understand the needs of our benefice and the opportunities it offers
- see where the role matches their strengths and gifts and the specific features that fit with their aspirations
- take the steps of finding out more, and putting in their application

Prayer around the Benefice Profile:

- That it may be attractive, portraying a good place to be and a fulfilling role
- That the words, pictures and sentiments might speak to the right person
- That those reading it may gain a true impression of our area, our benefice, our parishes, our team, our communities, our aspirations and our challenges.
- That our aspirations and challenges (perhaps even some we are unaware of) might be recognised by someone who can help us to meet these.
- That for the right people, something will stand out making "West Mendip Benefice" different from other opportunities (there are many similar large groups of rural parishes in vacancy – remember them too).

That the right candidate will feel "This is for me" and will apply.

Near the end of his life St Francis spoke these words:
"I have done what is mine to do: May God show you what is yours to do."

Let us pray that the right person may begin to discern that work in our benefice is theirs to do.

Perhaps also ask God about the tasks that are "ours to do" as part of His plan at this time.

As we pray for God to lead the right priest to us, we can also ask Him to lead us onward on our own spiritual journey. Let us be willing to play our part in God's work before and after the appointment, open to how He can use us in His service, ready to embrace change.

***Imaginative prayer**, based on thoughts arising from prayerful exploration of your own experience e.g.*

- *How have you found out about jobs or opportunities for new roles?*
- *How has God guided you to consider making a change in your life?*
- *How have you decided what roles to apply/ volunteer for?*
- *How have other people been part of these experiences?*

See how recollecting your own experiences leads you to pray for this situation

Imagine you are looking for a new role. How do you feel? What do you consider? Let this lead you to prayer for potential candidates.

Be encouraged by these Bible verses:

Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established.
Proverbs 16:3

I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Ephesians 3: 20-21.

Closing Prayer

Beloved God,
You have welcomed each one of us in Jesus
and called us to be his body in this place.
We give you thanks for all that has been
and all that will be. We ask for your guidance
as we work together at this time;
guidance to be light in our community;
guidance to love and encourage one another;
and guidance to draw to us the person
that is right for us and our community.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Opportunities for Prayer with Others

On Thursday 26th November when the application opens

- 9.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom
- 10.00am Axbridge Homegroup
- 2.00pm Prayer Meeting in St Andrew's, Compton Bishop
- 7.00pm Prayer Meeting at Sue Day's House

Before 7th January when the applications close

Sun 3rd January

- 9.00am Agape in Weare
- 10.00am Praise & Worship in Weare
- 10.00am United ASR service in Axbridge

Tues 5th January 2.15 pm Crook Peak Homegroup
Wed 6th January 10.00 am Prayer Meeting in St Leonard's, Shipham

For details of venues and Zoom login see ACNY, In Touch & Notices
For questions contact Ruth Orriss 07738 953660