

Context paper for Appointment of Administrator

at St Augustine's Church Bradford BD3

St Augustine's is an Anglican church formed in the evangelical tradition which is part of a united Benefice with St Clement's Church in the Bradford Area of Leeds Diocese. St Augustine's has had a part time Administrator post for some time. It has now been slightly increased in hours to 1.5 days a week, and there is 1 day a week of other support coming through freelance work through the Vicar's Access to Work grant. We have also started a new children's and youthworker this May.

Our Vicar, who line manages the Administrator, has a lot of varied experience ranging from Cathedral to Theological College, Organisational Analyst, Journalist and Teacher as well as a parish priest. She also has recently diagnosed ADHD which makes an efficient, empathic, flexible and confident person as Administrator key to the church's organisation.

BD3, the postcode of Bradford where St Augustine's and St Clement's parishes lie, has the youngest population in Europe. We have 14 schools across the two parishes. St Augustine's demographic has changed considerably even since the last census in 2011. We estimate that the current population is around 60% Asian Muslim, mostly Mirpuri, around 15% East European and Roma, around 10% white British, mainly elderly, around 5% asylum seekers and around 10% a mixture of other backgrounds - some African. There is a significant Congolese community in Bradford with which we have good links.

St Clement's demographic is more than 90% Mirpuri Muslims, from Pakistan originally, with many of the children being third generation Bradfordians. There are many asylum seekers living in home office property, which include some children, and a lot of the children at St Clements are from families of current or past asylum seekers or other migrants who have settled here.

Both churches now have a mixture of people living very locally and long term members who have moved out but come back in faithfully. As with all churches, the situation has changed radically during lockdown and we are still only dipping our toe in the water in terms of coming back, but the Vicar and the Youth Worker are currently working from St Augustine's and this is where the Administrator operates from. During this time we have been able to launch our new website and obviously developing this and our online communications as well as our written communications are more critical than ever before. We have a few hours a week of a webmaster and comms developer through the Access to Work grant.

St Augustine's

St Augustine's is situated on the Otley Road opposite the Farrow Medical Practice. Community Works is the Community Project founded by St Augustine's alongside other community partners in its old primary school building next door, building on the community outreach which had been going on from the centre at North Wing. We have a close relationship with Community Works.

We have an airy, practical and attractive building after its radical redevelopment 25 years ago with an enclosed garden. The former Vicarage is between the church and Community Works and the Youth Worker lives in the flat upstairs there. The building is very lettable and we need to build up our partners and bookings to help make ourselves more sustainable. We have a community library based at St Augustine's. We are looking to relaunch this as it becomes possible with the pandemic. Parents with young children are the main users. Before the pandemic we ran drop ins morning and afternoon on Tuesdays from St Augustine's as well as a Wednesday morning midweek communion.

St Augustine's has shared a Vicar with St Clement's, the neighbouring parish for the last 12 years. The first joint priest-in-charge was Dale Barton and Rosy Fairhurst has been Vicar since October 2018. We are looking at how we may work better and more sustainably together in various areas of the churches' lives.

St Clement's

St Clement's runs from another originally Victorian church on the Barkerend Road about 15 minutes walk away, which is II* listed because of its Arts and Crafts decorations. The Anchor Project, founded by the church and now an independent charity but still working very closely with us, operates from it Monday to Friday. The relationships built here have led to a number of new church members of great diversity including lots of children joining the very faithful longstanding congregation. Most of these families have arrived as asylum seekers and some have stayed on. St Clement's also relies on a certain number of bookings at weekends and in the evenings to help make it sustainable.

We face big challenges as inner city churches in the current climate - but we have two friendly and faithful congregations and great opportunities to be creative in identifying God's resources and serving in one of the areas most struck by the pandemic in terms of poverty and ethnic diversity.