



Parish Profile

Associate Minister, Hillmorton, Rugby



Bishop's Introduction

Hillmorton parish is a place of contrasts. On the one hand there is the long established part of the parish with settled communities and the beautiful historic church that serves them, and on the other is a modern development on the former BT mast site where the community worship together in the church school. Both of these churches have managed to emerge from Covid well and each is flourishing with their own styles of worship and outreach to the community.

As Associate Minister, you will be joining a good supportive team of both lay and ordained colleagues under the Priest-in-Charge who has also recently become Area Dean. Under his leadership, both church communities have developed a strong commitment to and vision for growth. You will be joining them at an exciting time. There is much emphasis on reaching young people and families with the love of Jesus and a deep desire to see people come to faith.

If you are someone who desires to see people of all ages come to faith and who has a pastoral heart to care for them and see them grow, then I warmly commend this post to you.

+ Christopher

Bishop Christopher Cocksworth

Bishop of Coventry



Message from the priest-in-charge and Area Dean

Our associate minister will arrive at an exciting time in the life of our parish and church community.

The established part of Hillmorton parish retains a strong sense of 'village' identity, despite now having around 4,200 homes, a secondary school and 3 other primary age schools. However, the parish is seeing dramatic growth through one of the country's largest developments- which takes the form of a new community called Houlton. Over the last 5 years Houlton has added 1,100 homes to the parish and will continue to add a further 5,000 homes in the coming years. We have embraced the missional opportunities brought by this growth; planting a new church community called St Gabriel's Houlton, opening a vicarage on the development and partnering with the Diocesan Board of Education to open a new Church of England primary school.

We believe the parish offers a wonderful opportunity for a priest who would welcome the challenge of ministering both in a 13th century church with a mature and growing congregation and with a strong tradition of connecting to our community via all life events - at the same time as helping us grow our new worshipping community. Both communities and congregations have their distinct character, while sharing a commitment to welcome and hospitality - with a very informal style.

We have a strong focus on growing faith in children, young people and families across all of our congregations - alongside seeking to nurture, love and care for our more mature members of our church family. We hope that our associate minister will take a share in the full life of the parish, in both the new and the old, with both the young and the old - working collaboratively with our wonderful, talented team who bring their many gifts to bear across the full life of the church. We think we can offer a supportive, exciting, challenging, growing place to minister - and we would love to hear what gifts and passions you might wish to bring to our team.

Reverend Steve Gold, Priest- in -Charge & Area Dean

Role Description

We are seeking a priest who will help us to grow missionally, discipling and nurturing those in our midst; someone who is prepared to meet people where they are at, bringing the light and love of Christ into new lives.

The role is to:

- Be fully engaged with the life of both churches and wider communities.
- Be fully committed to growth, taking the roots that have already been set and using them to further disciple and nurture others, so that we may be an active visible presence in our communities and within our congregations.
- Be actively involved in the vision we have for the future of our churches in Hillmorton and Houlton.
- Help us to disciple more families, children and young people in our worshipping communities.
- Be involved in all areas of ministry with specific leadership responsibility for some areas of church life
- Conduct occasional offices
- Lead worship and preach across all our services.

The post will be based on 3 days a week & is offered on a non-stipendiary, House for Duty basis.

Person Specification

We welcome applications from capable priests who:

- **Have a strong** visible Christian faith rooted in prayer.
- **Are collaborative**, a team player, who enables and empowers and encourages others and has a passion to see our community grow, as we demonstrate Christ's love within both our communities.
- **Provides pastoral care**, with experience in different pastoral contexts and is able to support both of our communities with enthusiasm.
- **Communicates**, a gifted listener, who will love without prejudice and lead inclusively. Someone who has a gift to communicate with all ages, with a passion for connecting with young families, children and adults. Someone who is passionate about people.
- **Is an enabler** of effective processes of mission and discipleship that can be applied in the life of the church, including such things as small groups, outreach and lay leadership.
- Is able to work well on their own **initiative**, liaising with the priest-in charge and the leadership team, in order to carry out their role most effectively.
- Can lead by example, who is willing to learn and grow in both church contexts and willing to stretch themselves into this diverse role.

The Team

We believe we are a loving, supportive, encouraging and inclusive team, led by our Priest in Charge, who has recently been appointed Area Dean. He is supported by our Curate, who was ordained priest in July 2022, by a lay reader and a retired priest with PTO, who we are fortunate to have as members of our congregation.

Our two Church Wardens and Deputy Church Warden support the clergy both in their ministry, care for the buildings and fabric, as well as the general day to day issues that may arise, and we are blessed with a gifted treasurer.

Our PCC is actively encouraged to take on a variety of roles and responsibilities as PCC members.

Our Church Administrator works 14 hours per week, based at the church office in our church hall.

Church Community

St John's, established in 1240, has evolved over many centuries and has a strong sense of village heritage and community. Houlton is only four years old and is growing daily. We are keen to foster a sense of a single parish, ministering to both new and old areas as one community – while allowing each to develop & grow with their own character. Our congregations are made up of residents from both areas as they offer different styles of worship and complimentary service times: 8 and 10.30 am at St John's and 4 pm at St Gabriel's.

Our Lent services start on Shrove Tuesday with a pancake party and then on Palm Sunday we have a donkey visit both churches. Maundy Thursday is marked with a shared meal and service in church, quiet services on Good Friday, on Saturday we share an Easter Vigil around a fire and shared food, and Easter morning is welcomed with a sunrise service around the fire followed by breakfast.



Pancake party at Rogers Hall

We celebrate St John's patronal festival with an outdoor event with BBQ which is widely advertised to the local community. There is a celebration of Harvest with a shared meal. We hold a Special Lives Service in November which acknowledges those we have lost. All bereaved families are personally invited, and it is open to the community. We are very involved with the British Legion in the arrangements for the outside Remembrance Service offering hospitality afterwards in Rogers Hall.

Our Christmas Eve candlelight service attracts capacity congregations and we have now

offered two identical services to accommodate our large congregations.



Quiz night at Rogers Hall

Many of our activities are held at our church hall. There are weekly baby and toddler groups at both Hillmorton, and Houlton led by church members and accessible to the wider community. 'Hillmorton Hub' offers the community companionship over coffee and activities for all ages. This is growing quickly and we are being recommended by local and county councils who have recently awarded us a grant. We offer support to those seeking help with jobs or benefits - and basic computer access. We are able to refer

for CAB and Food Bank. We also hold a monthly coffee morning. The hall is also available for hire by the community. This provides financial support for our own activities.

There is a monthly daytime meeting of men, Fellowship, where men meet up for a meal and companionship. There is an occasional meet up of men for an evening meal. We organise quiz and food evenings, walks to pubs, and general social events including BBQs and picnics in the churchyard. As there is a public footpath through the churchyard, this attracts community interaction. The church shows family films in the church during school holidays. St John's is very hospitable, and we frequently share food. These events make it easier to invite others. There is always homemade cake after main services!



Face painting at our family fun day



A time of fellowship together after our church walk

The children & families team support all the junior schools with regular Easter and Christmas Experiences, special school services in school or the church, weekly shared worship and after school groups at St Gabriel's school. Clergy and parishioners act as school governors.

We enjoy good ecumenical relationships with all our local church communities, joining together for joint services, organising shared Lent lunches, supporting Christian Aid and welcoming

everyone to our activities. There is a thriving ecumenical network across the town, called Revive, through which we offer (and support) ministries such as Christians Against Poverty, Rugby Foodbank, Rugby Street Pastors, Hope4 - a ministry supporting homeless and badly housed people. We have sustained good relationships with local and county councils attracting financial support, and with the police and other community groups.

We are extremely fortunate to have supportive congregations who financially, practically and spiritually enable our parish to serve the community.



The commissioning service of our Rugby Street Pastors

Worship

Our weekly pattern of worship looks like this (with typical congregation size)

- Tues :** Morning prayer over zoom (8-12)
Wed : Whole-school collective worship at St Gabriel's (270)
Thurs : Mid-week holy communion (6-8)
Sun : 8am : Holy Communion, Common Worship order 1 at St John's (10-20)
10.30am : Family worship (or Holy Communion) at St John's (40-60)
4pm : Family worship at St Gabriel's C of E Academy school (15-20)

Other non-weekly services include:

- Tea-service - hymns & tea/cake in the church hall.
- Monthly worship in our local retirement home and nursing home.



St John the Baptist church photo

Our worshipping community size is 133 people, made up of:

- 21 people aged under 17
- 53 people 18-69
- 59 people over 70

Life events services

We enjoy walking alongside those in our community as they mark life's key events. In 2021 we carried out 62 services marking life events;

- 8 baptisms
- 9 marriages
- 45 funerals

Churchmanship

Whilst wanting to avoid being categorised too easily, we can probably best be described as offering a very informal open evangelical style of worship. Music is mostly contemporary. Our worship at St Gabriel's is strongly oriented around engaging all ages and we bring our young people into the centre of our worship, involving them in all aspects of the service.

St John's is a mixture of traditional Common Worship Liturgy at 8am, with a blend of traditional and contemporary at the 10.30 Family worship. St John's does have an older demographic compared to St Gabriel's.



Worship at St Gabriel's



Worship at St Gabriel's

The House and Local Amenities

We can offer you a comfortable modern 4-bedroom detached home in the centre of the parish.

There is a reasonable sized garden, with off road parking and garage. There are many local shops and supermarkets, pubs, hotel, vets, pharmacy and other amenities within easy walking distance. Both Primary and Secondary Schools are situated within a short distance of the house.

A frequent bus route is available to Rugby, Northampton and Coventry.

The mainline station in Rugby provides commutable opportunities to London, Birmingham and further afield.

Hillmorton is located on the edge of Rugby, bordering attractive countryside with opportunities for outdoor pursuits.



Associate Minister house- Hillmorton

Hillmorton Community

Our community is constantly evolving. It is on the east side of Rugby and the most easterly parish in the Coventry Diocese. Hillmorton is an ancient village pre-dating the Norman invasion and was independent until it was absorbed into Rugby in 1932. It is still known as the village and retains an independent feel. It is a lively community based around an award-winning village green, complete with an ancient market cross and a war memorial and a recently installed Friendly Bench which encourages conversations between strangers. Both the West Coast mainline and the Oxford Canal dissect the village, both actually bordering the Church of St John the Baptist.

For the last century the area to the north and east of the parish was the home of the Rugby Radio Station. It is now being developed as a new 'sustainable urban extension' to Rugby. Called Houlton, it will eventually be home to over 15,000 people with all local facilities including local shops, schools, health facilities and light industry & offices. This is a fast changing community with new residents daily.



Armed Forces Day service in Hillmorton village

Most of the housing in 'old' Hillmorton is pre-war, developed to house those employed in the engineering works in the town. There are areas of social housing, and several purpose-built housing units for the elderly including two nursing homes. There are five infant and junior schools – one Church of England and one Roman Catholic - and a large secondary school with a sizeable sixth form, plus a newly opened secondary school built in the shell of the Rugby Radio Station which is currently accepting its third intake and will continue to grow as Houlton completes.

There are six public houses, various restaurants and takeaways, several independent shops, three small supermarkets, and a dentist. There are currently no GP surgeries in

Hillmorton itself but there are several in the town. The local hospital of Rugby St Cross offers a nurse led Urgent Care Centre, outpatient clinics and some inpatient services including a large orthopaedic unit. The main teaching hospital (UHCW) is in Coventry, 13 miles away.

Hillmorton is home to a new crematorium and garden of rest which serves the surrounding area.

There are green spaces, including several established play areas. There are several wooded areas, and the canal provides further opportunities for recreation. There is a small hamlet around the flight of locks immediately behind the church. The local disused railway track has been transformed into both popular walking and cycling routes and is close to Hillmorton.



Hillmorton village green

Hillmorton is adjacent DIRFT (Davenport International Rail Freight Terminal) one of the largest warehouse estates in Europe and a major local employer. It is a popular commuter area with easy access to the M1, M6, A14, M40, A45, A46 Birmingham Airport, a good rail service from Rugby (London is less than an hour away) and plans for a Houlton Parkway station in due course.

In Rugby there is a multiple screen cinema, an excellent amateur theatre, a museum and art gallery, access to visiting musical events via Rugby School and a wide range of societies and groups including a very active U3A. It is easy to access wider cultural activities in Northampton, Coventry, Warwick, Milton Keynes and Stratford upon Avon.

How to apply:

For informal conversations, please contact:

Assistant Archdeacon, Gail Phillip: Gail.Phillip@Coventry.Anglican.org/ 07487

For further details and an application form please contact:

Debbie Niblett - Mission and Discipleship Team Administrator:

Debbie.Niblett@Coventry.Anglican.org /024 7652 1342

An application form can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website:

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/about/vacancies/current-vacancies.php>

Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post.

Our buildings



The church hall (Rogers Hall)



St John the Baptist



St Gabriel's