



**FOR APPLICANTS CURRENTLY LICENSED TO POSTS  
IN THE DIOCESE OF RIPON AND LEEDS  
ONLY**

**The Benefice of Bedale and Leeming and Thornton Watlass**

*seeks to appoint*

**a Rector**

The Benefice comprises Bedale, a vibrant Georgian market town, situated at the bottom of Wensleydale, near the A1, and the surrounding villages of Leeming, Londonderry, Exelby, Burrill and Thornton Watlass. The communities are lively and employment is found in agriculture, retailing, manufacture and construction, health and other public services, transport and RAF. Catterick Garrison is nearby. Many people commute to nearby towns to work. There can be a sense of isolation among members of the farming community which the churches work hard to counteract. There is growing concern that the recession is beginning to affect the locality in a number of ways.

St Gregory's, Bedale, a Grade I Listed church, is of Saxon origin and is of great historic interest. It is situated at the top of the main street with excellent access for shoppers and all who come into Bedale on business. There is a well-appointed church hall and school room next door. St John the Baptist's, Leeming, St Mary's, Thornton Watlass and Burrill Mission Church are 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings, though St Mary's has a 14<sup>th</sup> Century tower. The tradition of the churches is moderate catholic and central: vestments are used at Bedale and the Sacrament is reserved. There has been gradual growth in recent years and the churches are very keen to reach out to their communities in effective ways. New services have been tried at Bedale, including café style services and family worship and this ministry needs developing with a small, keen group of young people's leaders, readers and clergy. There is significant lay involvement in worship, ministry to care homes, discipleship groups, baptism preparation and care of buildings. The Benefice has two lay readers, a committed group of wardens and a part-time administrator (6 hours). They enjoy the support of 7 retired clergy. There is currently a curate on placement and it is hoped that the person appointed would have the ability to become a training incumbent. There are 7 schools in the Benefice, 2 of which are C of E Primary Schools. The church has a good record of involvement with the schools in a variety of ways.

The P.C.C. is seeking an **energetic priest** who will further **enable and build up this lay team** and who will **help us to reach out more effectively into our communities**. In particular, we need to **reach the next generation** and to find ways to do this that are supported by our PCCs and congregations. The new Rector will strengthen and extend efforts already begun to engage more with families, children and young people and those in their 20s and 30s.

We are looking for a **leader** who will help us **unite in purpose** while understanding the different characters of the four churches. He or she will be adroit at **enabling the different contributions and gifts of church members and providing or finding appropriate support and training where it is needed**.

He or she will be an **able communicator who will work hard at creating understanding, helping us all to move forward at a pace which gains ownership from the PCCs and congregations.**

The person appointed will be **visible in the life of our communities** and will have **considerable presence; involvement** in the schools, the care homes and the many interest groups of our town and villages will be essential. He or she will need to be **sympathetic to the varied and dispersed nature** of this rural Benefice.

To this end, we seek a **person of prayer, patience and humour** who will **consult, listen, enable and work with us** as we further develop our mission.

**For further information or an application pack, or if you would like an informal conversation, please contact the Venerable Janet Henderson, Archdeacon of Richmond, on 01765 601 316 or [janet.henderson@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk](mailto:janet.henderson@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk)**

Closing date for applications: Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Interviews: Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011