

## Bishop's Statement for Hadley Wood

St Paul's Church has served this local community in many ways over many years. The Church building and people all point towards God's interaction with the local community, and speak loudly of a local church which has, at its root, a missionary zeal for our locality, a desire to offer good and thoughtful teaching and preaching, and a desire to offer a pastoral place of welcome and hospitality.

There are four main challenges which the new Minister will need to address.

These are:

Firstly, we are looking for a new minister who will focus upon developing healthy models for church growth, in partnership with other churches and agencies/projects in the area. This partnership is crucial given the very different needs of the local community. There is a great scope to work with the Senior Staff of the Diocese, the Gregory Centre, St Mellitus, Oak Hill and others in the Deanery to enable this growth. Covid has hit this community, as with most communities, hard, and therefore the new minister will need to have a head for strategic thinking and intentional mission.

Secondly, the congregation that gathers will need to look more like the local population that it serves. There will be the task for the new minister to help develop a local leadership, and congregational make up which continues to reflect the age, ethnicity, and economic diversity of the local community, so our churches are seen as places where everyone in the community might find a home and belong. It will be particularly important that the new minister will be able to live out the Five Guiding Principles of the Church of England, whilst remaining rooted in the Resolution that has been passed.

Thirdly, there is the expectation of discerning, fostering and supporting vocations within the Church of England, to a variety of ministries. Explicitly, the Edmonton Area has a paucity of clergy from UKME communities, and it is important within all church communities that we can foster new vocations amongst a wider group of people than just white middle class men.

Finally, there is the need for creative engagement with other churches within the Deanery in a time of change. The Deaneries have recently been restructured to help the Edmonton Area work more collaboratively. It is expected that all ministers will work collaboratively, including with those whom they may disagree on theological grounds. As the Body of Christ as we seek to serve the whole community, where we often speak of “Roots Down, Walls Down” as an indication of our prime relationship with Jesus Christ enabling us to work in partnership with all of our Anglican brothers and sisters. The Deanery has several community-based projects within it, and the new minister must have a heart for working with others in bringing the Gospel into new contexts. The new minister must display pioneer qualities of creativity and potential, in partnership across the Deanery.

In order for each church in the Deanery to thrive, we are looking for clergy who are able to respect each church and pray for each church to thrive in a spirit of generosity. This means that Chapter and Synod will need to be high priority for the new minister, as they play their role in developing a cohesion for our mission across both Barnet and Enfield.

These challenges, if faced with enthusiasm, along with the vision set out in Vision 2030, offer an exciting and rewarding ministry for the right person.

+Robert Edmonton  
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