

Profile for a fulltime stipendiary curate from
Petertide 2025



St Laurence Church, Alvechurch and St Leonard's Church, Beoley



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Introduction



Welcome to a glimpse of the mission and ministry at St Laurence and St Leonard's. I'm Gail, the incumbent of these two parishes. As part of the ongoing restructuring within the Worcester Diocese, we've joined a larger Mission Area, currently spanning 12 churches. We are still discerning how best to collaborate, but at the heart of this new vision is a commitment to supporting and encouraging one another through collaborative ministry.

Since I became incumbent nearly three years ago, we've embraced significant changes—some challenging, but many exciting. A key focus has been developing a vision for mission, with a focus on growing children, youth and families, supported by a Mission Accompanier and our participation in the New Worshipping Communities Pathway led by Myriad.

Though distinct in identity and context, St Laurence and St Leonard's have been on a journey toward greater unity. This marks the first time they've shared a vicar, and the grace and openness of both congregations have made this a humbling and fruitful experience. Together, we have been sharing gifts, wisdom, and ministry, creating stronger bonds between the two churches.

For a curate, this is a place rich in opportunity. The parishes offer a diverse mission field, along with an active ministry in baptisms, weddings, and funerals. There's also room for further growth in New Worshipping Communities, an area we're eager to explore more deeply.

As we continue to discern our identity and role within the wider Mission Area, there is much to learn from leading through this season of transition—for a curate, and for all of us. Below, you'll find more about our parishes and the exciting opportunities that await.

With prayers and best wishes

Revd Gail Rogers



WHO ARE WE

St Leonard's Church is a welcoming and active community, characterised by an older demographic with a very small number of children (2-3) who attend regularly. Our parish, while geographically large, is known for its warmth, welcome and cakes and its beautiful, historic church building.

Worship and Community Life

We currently hold two acts of worship on Sunday mornings:

- 9:15 am Service: A more informal gathering.
- 11:15 am Service: A traditional service.

In addition, we offer a monthly BCP (Book of Common Prayer) Holy Communion. Monthly Café-style Church in the YMCA Willow Trees Community Centre

Another key part of our worship life is Church@4, a café-style church that gathers monthly at the YMCA Willow Trees Community Centre on Church Hill. This new worshipping community is both an exciting and challenging missional initiative as we work towards making it healthy and sustainable.

We have for a few years held Toddler worship at Harvest, Christmas and Easter, from September 2024 we hold this once per month and 50- 60 tots and toddlers attend plus their accompanying adults.

Our Historic Church

Our church building, an ancient grade one listed structure, has been a place of beauty worship and peace for over 900 years. It is surrounded by a serene and picturesque churchyard, which serves as a tranquil setting for reflection and community events. Until the establishment of Church@4, the church building was the focal point of our worship and praise. Many in our congregation devote significant time and effort to ensuring the building is well cared for. Adjoined to the church is The Ark, which offers an award winning building design and serves as a source of income to the church through lettings to community groups. The church has use of the building around these bookings.



WHO ARE WE

Our Parish

Though our parish is quite large geographically, the church building itself is isolated, with no immediate community surrounding it. Often referred to as 'the church on the hill,' we do, however, have a regular flow of visitors to the churchyard. These visitors include people visiting graves and walkers enjoying the beautiful countryside landscape of Beoley.

While the number of weddings has significantly dropped, St Leonard's remains a popular choice for weddings, baptisms, and funerals, reflecting our role as the parish church to which people look for significant life events. Despite our isolated location, there is a strong sense of community and belonging within our congregation and among those who visit our church and churchyard.

The parish, also includes Hopwood, Rowney Green, and Bordesley. Alvechurch alone has a population of 6,000 with 21% of the population aged under 17. The village has both a First School and a Middle School within its boundaries. As students reach high school age, they continue their education in nearby Bromsgrove or Redditch, commuting via school bus. The village is a bustling hub of social activity, featuring five pubs, a gin bar, and two contemporary cafés. It has a community spirit of togetherness, with annual events and numerous activities that cater to all age groups.

The village is well connected by train, car, and even narrowboat, courtesy of the nearby Marina that welcomes regular visitors.

WHO ARE WE TOGETHER



Current Restructure

Like many parts of The Church of England, St Leonard's is currently undergoing a restructure. This means that the governance of our church may change as we continue to grow in collaboration with St Laurence, Alvechurch, and as the Redditch Mission Area initiative develops.

Team Collaboration

Holy Trinity Redditch

St Leonard's is currently part of a team with Holy Trinity Redditch. As part of the ongoing restructure, we know that this team will eventually be dissolved. The specific implications of this change are still under discussion.

St Laurence Church

For the past three years, we have been working more collaboratively with St Laurence Church in Alvechurch. We share the vicar, Revd Gail, and recently, Revd Martin has joined us as a Curate training on the Auxiliary Pathway. One significant decision in this relationship was the appointment of a Ministry Support Administrator to assist both churches with their administrative tasks, centralising our parish office in Alvechurch.

Redditch Mission Area

The Redditch Mission Area is a vision for the 12 churches in our Deanery to work together more collaboratively. This includes shared initiatives, support, resources, and encouragement. While it is still in its embryonic stages, the Redditch Mission Area represents a significant part of our future offering, and we are committed to engaging well with this initiative.

Within the Mission Area we are currently working towards employing a full time Children and Families Worker and a part time Youth Worker. If our bid is successful the CFW will be based at St Leonard's for 60% of the time and the YW for 50% of the time. This will provide further opportunities for mission and aligns with both the Diocesan and parish priorities to grow more children families and youth.

Embracing Transition

All these areas—our collaboration with Holy Trinity Redditch, St Laurence Church, and the Redditch Mission Area—are crucial parts of who we are and who we are becoming. They shape how we will do mission and ministry in the future. This period of transition, while potentially unnerving, also presents numerous opportunities. We have already seen fruitful outcomes from these processes, and we approach these changes with excitement and hope.

Looking Ahead

As we navigate this restructuring, we remain focused on our mission to grow and serve our parish. By embracing collaboration and seizing new opportunities, we are confident that we can continue to build a vibrant, supportive community rooted in faith and committed to outreach.



Vision

Where everyone is welcome in seeking and exploring faith together through belonging and being valued and loved by God and each other.

Mission

Diocesan Priorities

The Diocese of Worcester has set ambitious priorities for the next few years, including:

- Doubling the number of children and young people worshipping in our churches.
- Creating 100 new worshipping communities, offering a range of ways for people to come to faith and worship God.

St Leonard's and St Laurence Mission

We recognise the importance of aligning with these priorities. Our mission is to grow the number of young people, children, and families engaging with our church. Our churches are fully committed to this mission, as evidenced by St Leonard's decision last year to fully fund Church@4 as a new worshipping community on Church Hill and St Laurence Church setting up a Café breakfast church. Our aim is to grow these initiatives and extend our mission through wider community networking and deepening relationships with schools, local youth and offering new initiatives and styles of worship.

Current Outreach Efforts

In Beoley, we currently engage with local schools through programs like Open the Book and regular assemblies led by Revd Gail, who is also available for classroom visits to speak about the Christian Faith. Our schools have been active participants in our Love Christmas Campaign, demonstrating the potential for deepening these relationships and extending our reach beyond the schools into family life. We have planted a new worshipping community in the heart of Church Hill and Revd Gail is a trustee of the YMCA.

In Alvechurch, Revd Gail is involved with both schools and we have a volunteer lead on children and families who oversees Ark Time (Sunday School), Tots and Toddlers and our currently three times per year toddler worship. We are extending this into a monthly NWC from September 2024. We have had times of organising youth initiatives but have found it difficult to sustain this.

Future Aspirations

We aspire to further our missional outreach through various initiatives, addressing identified gaps in the local community. Some of our ideas include:

- Parent and toddler group
- Parenting courses/ Groups
- Midweek food and activity church

Additionally, our links with the YMCA, opens up potential for closer collaboration with the YMCA. We also aim to offer regular faith enquiry courses and find ways to support people in their daily lives.

Vision for Growth

Our vision is to cultivate confident people of faith who will become future leaders of the church. Central to our success is the focus on new worshipping communities, which we believe should evolve from the traditional base of St Leonard's and flow into the community of Church Hill.

Through these efforts, we hope to create vibrant, inclusive spaces for worship and community, reflecting our commitment to the diocesan priorities and our mission to grow and serve our parish.

Growing as Kingdom People

As the body of Christ, we join together to worship God, make disciples, share hope, and transform communities.

WORCESTER DIOCESE



Our diocesan vision is to grow as Kingdom People, sharing the good news of Jesus' love in Worcestershire and Dudley.

As the body of Christ, God's Kingdom People, we join together to worship God, make disciples, share hope, and transform communities as we live out values of love, compassion, justice and freedom.

We are currently in the process of consultation for a new Bishop of Worcester, in the interim period Bishop Martin Gorick of Dudley is acting Bishop of Worcester.

Diocesan Vision

Our diocesan vision is to grow as Kingdom People, sharing the good news of Jesus' love in Worcestershire and Dudley through churches that are growing in health and sustainability.

Priorities 2023 – 2030

Over the next few years, we aim to:

- Double the number of children and young people worshipping in our churches.
- Create 100 new worshipping communities offering a range of ways for people to come to faith and worship God. (eg Forest Church / Café Church / Walking Church).
- Invest in the renewal of around a dozen churches to ensure that each major area of population has at least one church with 150 people attending weekly, enabling them to support other local churches.
- Underpin these by investing in our clergy and lay leaders, providing training and development opportunities to enable them to grow and feel supported and equipped for mission.

Support from the Diocese

I moved to this Diocese when taking up my current post, so I know first hand how daunting it can be to move from one diocese to another. I found the diocese to be friendly, welcoming and extremely supportive.

We are in the Deanery of Redditch and Bromsgrove and hold regular Chapter meetings where we share, reflect, and support one another as leaders in this area.

What the Curate Can Expect



The relationship between a Curate and Incumbent is vital. Reflecting on my own curacy, I am deeply thankful for the experience and the mutual learning it offered. I firmly believe that the curacy period is an opportunity for both the Curate and Training Incumbent to learn and grow together.

Training should be tailored to the unique needs and gifts of the Curate, with an eye toward discerning the future ministry to which God may be calling them. A curacy is more than just training; it's about laying a solid foundation for future ministry. Here at St Laurence and St Leonard's, there are opportunities to learn and develop across all areas of parish ministry. Whether it's pastoral care, worship, or leading new initiatives, there's room for growth, creativity, and challenge, all with the goal of equipping you for the future.

Alongside this grounding in parish life, I believe it's essential to discern and nurture the individual gifts that God has given the Curate, allowing those gifts to flourish. This journey isn't just about learning how to do ministry, but about becoming the minister God is shaping you to be—grounded, confident, and ready to serve wherever God may lead.

The Incumbent

- I am married to Karl and we have three sons.
- I trained at Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. While training I did an MA in Theology, Mission and Ministry. I did my BA Hons in Contextual (Practical) Theology.
- I did my curacy at St Francis of Assisi, Bournville in Birmingham Diocese.
- I have been Incumbent at St Laurence, Alvechurch and St Leonard's, Beoley since December 2021.
- At heart I am a missional priest, with a passion for growing confident Christians encouraged, supported and equipped for mission. Growing leaders, lay and ordained is where my heart is.

Are we
what you
are looking
for?

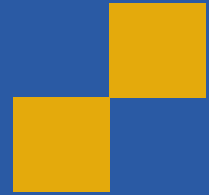
We hope that this profile offers snap shot of who we are, what our passions are and how God is working amongst here.

If you would be interested in exploring this post further, please contact:

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[Contact Us](#)



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Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom