

Dear Everyone

Update on Goldington Vacancy

If you did not know, this vacancy was advertised recently in the Church press, and also on the Diocesan website. Unfortunately not only did we not receive any applications by the closing date, we didn't receive any enquiries.

Goldington is not alone in this. The same has happened at the Church of the Transfiguration, Kempston, and Renhold.

Why might this be? Well, quite simply, there are too many jobs available and not enough clergy to fill them.

Let me give you an example. When I became Archdeacon 14 years ago, it was unusual to find more than three pages of adverts in the Church Times. The other week there were eleven and a half pages of adverts for vacancies.

So what are we doing about it? Well, we aim to advertise in the New Year, it being fairly useless to advertise before as clergy are too busy preparing for Christmas. Also in January the next group of clergy, who are coming to the end of their curacy, will be eligible to apply. The vacancy is also discussed at each of the Bishop's staff meetings to see if any of us knows of clergy looking to move.

Please believe me when I say we are determined to find the right person for Goldington.

Is there anything you can do? Yes, please pray about the vacancy, especially in the intercessions on Sunday. Also talk about it to all of your friends, you never know they may be aware of someone looking to move.

Finally, may I thank you all for keeping St Mary's alive, and especially your churchwardens, it is very much appreciated.

May I wish you a very happy New Year. May you all experience the love of the Christ child in your hearts.

Paul Hughes

Archdeacon of Bedford.