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Description automatically generatedThe Rt Revd Libby Lane**

**Bishop of Derby**

**Priest in Charge for the United Benefice of Heage and Ambergate**

**Half-time fixed term stipendiary role for three years**

Thank you for considering this post. This is an exciting and challenging time for the Diocese of Derby. As the Church of England is renewing its calling to be centred on Christ Jesus and shaped by Him, the Diocese of Derby echoes that call as we re-articulate a vision for the next 7 years:

**Vision:** The Kingdom of God: Good News for All

**Mission:** To proclaim *afresh* in this generation the good news of the Kingdom

**Values:** Generous Faith - Courageous Hope – Life-Giving Love

**Aims:** Transformed Lives: Growing Church, Building Community

**Interventions:** Equipping people - Shaping structures – Sustaining resources for Mission

In each deanery, parishes and benefices are engaging in Mission Action Planning towards a more missional and sustainable future that embed our desired outcomes in every context of deepening our relationship with God, growing new disciples, serving our local community and challenging injustice. We are looking to appoint a half-time priest who can work collaboratively across these rural churches and the deanery. The new Priest in Charge will be someone who can lead transformational change and work to enable village churches to thrive, serving and reaching out to their local communities.

These parishes have remained strong through several years of vacancy and are seeking to grow in their discipleship and ability to engage pastorally and missionally with their communities. A particular focus is nurturing and developing lay leadership and ministry and exploring new ways to connect with their communities. There is significant work to do to build financial sustainability and resilience.

There is considerable scope to further develop schools work, pastoral care within the community, to pioneer new worshipping communities and to build upon the seasonal cycles of the year. In a new phase of ministry there is a desire to build on all these strengths and develop further a vision for contextual, local ministry.

Parishes across Dove and Derwent Deanery are facing significant missional transition with opportunity to reconsider shaping of ministry and resource that is fruitful and sustainable. Over the three years, questions of pastoral reorganisation within the deanery need to be explored, decisions made, with careful listening and due process followed to enable the benefice and surrounding churches towards the best possible shape of ministerial resource to facilitate mission across the wider area of Belper.

We are looking to appoint a gospel hearted, compassionate and persistent enabling leader to build up ministry across these parishes and support them in the exploration of partnerships and collaboration with neighbouring parishes. This is an ideal post for someone passionate about rural ministry and schools work who will work generously within and beyond these parishes, to equip, shape and resource growing church and building community that God’s Kingdom may come.

Be assured of my continuing prayers for you as you discern God’s call.

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