**Application Form – Clergy (Office Holder)**

**Confidential**

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| **Application for the office of:** | Rector for the Benefice of Whittlesey, Pondersbridge & Coates |
| **Office details (where relevant)** | Rector for the Benefice of Whittlesey, Pondersbridge & Coates, Ely Diocese |
| **Deadline for Applications** | 27 October 2025 (midday) |
| **Interview Date** | 19 November 2025 |
| **Please return your completed Application form to (email):** | Ven Richard Harlow, Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech  [Archdeacon.handw@elydiocese.org](mailto:Archdeacon.handw@elydiocese.org) |

# Section 1: Personal Details

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| **Surname** |  |
| **Christian Names** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Home Telephone Number** |  |
| **Mobile telephone Number** |  |
| **E-mail address** |  |

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| **Ordained Deacon in the Diocese of:** |  |
| **Ordained Deacon in the Year (YYYY):** |  |
| **Ordained priest in the Diocese of:** |  |
| **Ordained priest in the Year (YYYY):** |  |
| **Currently serving in the Diocese of:** |  |

**Curates ONLY**

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| **Have you been given permission to look for a post? (Delete as appropriate)** | Yes / No |

*In the sections that follow, please continue to add any relevant details into the spaces provided by adding rows or expanding the table boxes as required.*

# Section Two: Present Appointment

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| **What is the title of your present office?**  **Please give the date you started and a brief outline of the work.** |
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# Section Three: Further Education and Professional Qualifications

**a) Further Education (including theological college or course)**

Please give details, with dates, most recent first.

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| **Date from (MM /YYYY)** | **Date to**  **(MM /YYYY)** | **Class of Qualification (i.e. PhD, MSc, BSc, Diploma)** | **Qualification Obtained (Grade and Qualification Title)** |
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**b) Other Professional or Practical Qualifications obtained**

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| **Date from (MM /YYYY)** | **Date to**  **(MM /YYYY)** | **Class of Qualification (i.e. PhD, MSc, BSc, Diploma)** | **Qualification Obtained (Grade and Qualification Title)** |
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# Section 4: Career and Ministry

Please give details, with dates, with earliest first.

Please explain any gaps and give a relevant address for each appointment

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| **a) Career before ordination**  Please give a brief indication, with dates, of the nature of the work and responsibilities | | |
| **Date from (MM/YYYY)** | **Date To**  **(MM/YYYY)** | **Description (nature of work and responsibilities)** |
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| **b) Offices held since ordination and any other work done**  Full and part-time not including present appointment with details of the nature of the work and responsibilities..  Please provide in date order, with earliest first, and explain any gaps.  Please list these, with separate entries for offices held concurrently (e.g. rural dean, chaplaincies etc.).  Please indicate major parish features (e.g. type of area, team ministry, ecumenical).  Please provide a contact address where the post is not parochial or diocesan. | | | |
| **Date from (MM/YYYY)** | **Date to**  **(MM/YYYY)** | **Office and description (nature of work and responsibilities)** | **Contact address if not a parochial or Diocesan post** |
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| **c) Responsibilities in the wider Church**  Please indicate tasks undertaken for the wider Church, e.g. synodical responsibilities at any level, diocesan committees and working parties served on, ecumenical involvement, or work for a Church voluntary organisation, and how you contributed to progressing their agendas | | |
| **Date from (MM/YYYY)** | **Date to (MM/YYYY)** | **Description** |
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| **d) Continuing ministerial education and development**  Please list training courses attended and development activities undertaken, e.g. mentoring (other than IME 1-7) in the last 5 years.  Include courses and activities both inside and outside the Church. |
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| **e) Any publications** |
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| **f) Theological and ecclesiological** | |
| **What theological traditions have shaped your ministry and with which do you feel most at ease today?** |  |
| **With what styles and traditions of worship are you most at ease?** |  |
| **What are your priorities in mission and ministry?** |  |
| **What spiritual disciplines have moulded, and now mould, your daily life and ministry?** |  |
| **How would you describe your personal convictions in the following areas, and how do they shape your ministry in particular with reference to the following?** | |
| **Baptism Policy** |  |
| **Marriage** |  |
| **Priesthood and lay ministry** |  |

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| **g) Other areas of interest**  Please indicate your involvement in special areas of concern, e.g. particular issues in contemporary life, international matters, academic or artistic interests. How have these contributed to your ministry? |
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| **h) Other interests**  Please indicate other recreational interests |
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# Section 6: Personal Statement

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| **Please state your reasons for applying for this office.**  What you write and how you write it will help those making the appointment build up a picture of you.  You will want to outline how you meet each of the elements of the person specification, drawing on gifts, skills, knowledge and experience from your previous career, both before and after ordination, responsibilities held and relevant interests.  You will also want to set out your thoughts about how you will take forward some of the challenges and issues set out in the role specification.  If the office applied for is in a different church tradition from the one you have come from give examples of how you have worked across traditions. |
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# Section 7: Confidential

**This section will be removed by the person administering the application process and will only be made available to the Chair of the interview panel and the Bishop**

If you are appointed to the Office, you will be invited to provide information about you and your family so you can receive appropriate pastoral care.

**References**

Please give names, occupations and addresses (including e-mail if possible) of three persons to whom reference can be made and the capacity in which they have known you.

At least one should be clerical (not the Bishop as that reference is sought as a matter of course) and one from a senior lay person (for example a current churchwarden or head teacher of the local school).

Referees should have a detailed up-to-date knowledge of your work.

Please obtain their permission. If you are a team vicar, priest-in-charge of a daughter church or assistant curate, you should give your team rector’s or incumbent’s name as a reference.

We expect to take up references before the interview unless you have indicated otherwise. An Episcopal reference will always be taken up prior to interview.

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| **Reference 1** | |
| **Permission obtained** (delete as appropriate) | Yes / No |
| **Name** |  |
| **Occupation** |  |
| **Address (full postal address)** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Reference 2** | |
| **Permission obtained** (delete as appropriate) | Yes / No |
| **Name** |  |
| **Occupation** |  |
| **Address (full postal address)** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Reference 3** | |
| **Permission obtained** (delete as appropriate) | Yes / No |
| **Name** |  |
| **Occupation** |  |
| **Address (full postal address)** |  |
| **Email** |  |

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| **Health** | |
| Please specify any special access requirements you may have in order to attend interview (e.g. hearing loop system) |  |
| Do you have any health-related condition that would affect your ability to carry out functions that are intrinsic to the office?  (See person specification for details.) |  |

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| **Marital status**  Please describe your marital status.  You should specify whether you are single, married, or in a civil partnership, separated, divorced, widowed, or formerly in a civil partnership now dissolved.  You should also specify whether you are divorced and remarried with a previous spouse who was still living at the time of your marriage, and/or whether you are married to a person who has been previously married whose former spouse was still living at the time of your marriage. |
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| **Ecclesiastical Offices (Age Limits) Measure 1975** | |
| With very limited exceptions, appointment to an ecclesiastical office can only be offered to priests over the age of 70 on a fixed or limited term licence.  Are you under the age of 70? (delete as appropriate) | Yes / No |

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| **UK Border Agency requirements**  Please note that you will be required to produce documentary evidence of your right to remain and work in the UK if you are invited to interview | |
| **Are you free to remain and work in the UK with no current immigration restrictions? (delete as appropriate)** | Yes / No |

# Church of England Confidential Declaration Guidance and Privacy Notice

The Confidential Declaration will be sent to the preferred candidate and must be completed by all those wishing to work with children and/or adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect. It applies to all roles, including clergy, employees, ordinands and volunteers who are to be in substantial contact with children and/or adults experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect.

If you do not complete this form, or if you do not give true, accurate and complete information in response to the questions it contains, this may amount to misconduct under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 and your appointment will not proceed.

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| **Promoting Racial Equality** |  |
| **Are you a member or an active supporter of any political party or other organisation whose constitution, policies, objectives, activities, or public statements are incompatible with the Church of England’s commitment to promoting racial equality?**  **The House of Bishops has made declarations of incompatibility in respect of two organisations, namely the British National Party and the National Front.** | Yes / No |

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| **Where did you hear of this office?** |  |

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| **If appointed when would you be available to start?** |  |

A confidential reference will also be requested from your Diocesan Bishop or Area Bishop in addition to other references. The Data Protection Act of 1998 applies to all references and commendations.

Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance (in accordance with General Synod regulations) will be allowed to candidates selected for interview.

**Safer Recruitment in the Diocese of Ely**

The Diocese of Ely is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and expects all employees to undertake safeguarding checks and training relevant to their role and to adhere to the [Church of England’s safeguarding policies and procedures (click here for more)](https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual). Therefore, this position is subject to an enhanced disclosure from the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service).

**A Diverse and Inclusive Workforce**

The Diocese of Ely is committed to creating and sustaining a diverse and inclusive workforce which represents our context and wider community. We are aware that those of Global Majority Heritage/United Kingdom Minority Ethnic (GMH/UKME), women, and disabled people are currently under-represented among our clergy and workforce, and we particularly encourage applications from those with the relevant skills and experience that will increase this representation.

# Declaration

**I certify that the information given in this application is correct.**

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| Signed |  |
| Date |  |

# Notes for Applicants

Increasingly role descriptions and person specifications are being used in appointments. These help all parties to be clear about what qualities and experience are being sought and on what basis the decision to appoint will be made.

This form helps you to demonstrate your calling to the office, showing how your gifts, skills, experience and qualities match the criteria. It allows those making appointments to demonstrate their discernment of the successful candidate by assessing applicants against selection criteria in a structured way, avoiding bias. In completing the form you should ask yourself “What might I under God be able to bring to the needs of this office?”

You are encouraged to complete the form electronically. This eases administration and allows interviewers to concentrate on the facts you are presenting rather than having first to read your handwriting. Start with the most recent one first when listing dates.

Please complete each section fully. Saying ‘see CV attached’, for example, is not sufficient.

Once you have completed the form read it through and check you have shown how you meet each of the criteria.

Section 6 – Personal Statement allows you to explain why you are applying for the post and, using examples from your previous work and experience, why you are suited to it. Pull together the relevant information from other parts of the form. Don’t forget to include information about things you have done in your career before ministry or relevant interests. Concentrate on facts, things your interests have caused you to do, rather than mentioning a general interest in a particular subject. But don’t be too detailed, 2 pages of personal statement is enough. The interview gives the opportunity to explore these areas further.

If there is a particular requirement about a post holder e.g. a PCC has passed a Resolution under the House of Bishops’ Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests, and a woman is therefore not an acceptable appointee or someone remarried after divorce and with a former partner still living is not acceptable, the person specification needs to make this clear and if appropriate you need to address it in your personal statement.

Some requirements however are more general and will not be mentioned in the person specification. For example, the Ecclesiastical Offices (Age Limit) Measure 1975 does not allow the appointment of those over 70 unless in a fixed or limited term licensed appointment under regulation 29(1) (b). If you are in any doubt about your eligibility, you should ask those responsible for making the appointment before you complete your application.

Personal information is confined to the confidential part of the form. This means only the person administering the process, the bishop and those who need to see it will have access to it. It means those interviewing you are not influenced by factors that are not relevant in making the appointment.

The bishop may ask you questions about the confidential information at your private interview because he or she has to assure himself or herself that your lifestyle is commensurate with a) priestly ministry and b) the person specification for the post.

If you are appointed, you will be invited to provide information about you and your family so the bishop has the information he or she needs to provide you with pastoral care.