



**THE BISHOP OF HERTFORD**  
**The Right Reverend Michael Beasley**

**A Message from the Bishop of Hertford**

I'm delighted to commend this profile for the post of Team Vicar in the Parish of St Martin's, Shenley. St Martin's is a church of joyful, energised, committed people who are looking forward immensely to welcoming a new priest in order to lead them in the next stage of their life and journey.

As we come out of the pandemic, all churches are needing to think about the shape of their common life and St Martin's is no different. In particular, its people are thinking hard about how the church's ministry can be sustained into the future. As the profile mentions, the parish has been unable to meet its full share recently. While a campaign of generous giving is underway, it's recognised that in the longer term, different patterns of ministry may be needed if a sustainable future is to be realised.

Fortunately, scope for flexibility exists within the Aldenham, Radlett and Shenley team. Until now the team has been served by three full time stipendiary clergy. Upon the appointment of the new team Vicar in Shenley, the current Vicar of Aldenham will change from holding a full time post to one that is house for duty until his retirement in the next two to three years. At that point, should it have proved impossible for Shenley to be fully financially self-sustaining within the team, it has been agreed that how ministry is divided across the team would be looked at and revised accordingly. This would not affect this post in terms of ministering at Shenley or in terms of its permanence, but it may mean taking on additional ministerial responsibility elsewhere.

I hope that you will continue to be interested to apply for this vibrant, positive and engaged parish. But we have felt it important at this early stage to be clear about the arrangements that anyone appointed to this post will need to expect and be ready for.

This comes with all good wishes,

+ Michael Hertford.

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