*Clergy Role Description*

**Diocese of Durham**

*Role description signed off by:* Archdeacon of Durham Date: April 2025

To be reviewed 6 months after commencement of the appointment, and at Ministerial Development Review, alongside the setting of objectives.

• **Details of Post**

*Role Title:* Part-time Priest in Charge (Sunday plus 2 days)

*Stipend Allocation:*  0.3 plus house

*Name of benefice:* St Brandon, Brancepeth

*Deanery:* Durham

*Archdeaconry:* Durham

*Initial point of contact on terms of service:* Diocesan Secretary

1. **Role Purpose**

**The vision of the Diocese is 'Blessing our communities in Jesus' name for the transformation of us all'. Within this the four core priorities are:**

* **Energising Growth**
* **Engaging with Children, Youth and Young People**
* **Challenging Poverty**
* **Caring for God’s Creation**

The Diocese of Durham is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders and volunteers are expected to share this commitment.

In addition to the priorities, the Diocese is working to a Transformation strategy, and the expectation is that all our clergy will participate in this. Diocesan Transformation is designed to enable a future that leads to missional growth and financial sustainability for our churches and diocese**.**

**General**

* To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls in this beneficein line with the Diocesan Vision, Priorities and Transformation Strategy described above.
* To be the Priest in Charge for this parish, having regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy of the Church of England as described in the Ordinal, the Canons, national safeguarding policies, and all other relevant legislation, and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy 2015.* Specifically, the parish priest must give due regard to safeguarding policy and practice.
* To work with the PCC towards the development of the local church (both people and building) so that it is sustainable, and effective, in mission.
* To ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching and pastoral care is provided so that people are more able to live as disciples of Christ.
* To nurture discipleship and develop the ministry of all God's people, through training, cooperation, delegation, support and example, so that they take more responsibility for the mission and ministry of the parish; and seeking to identify potential future leader and ministers. Where there is a Shared Ministry Development Team to work with it as described in the agreement.
* To encourage all church members to participate in generous giving for the mutual support of one another across the diocese, and the wider Church of England.
* To collaborate within the deanery in mission and ministry, and to participate in the shaping of ministry as resources and opportunities may require.
* To be proactive and persistent in seeking ecumenical cooperation wherever possible.

**Specific**

* To work with the PCC and congregation in establishing the agreed core purposes:

1. *to provide opportunities for encounter between God and people.*
2. *to offer silence, sacrament, celebration and recollection for all phases of human need and searching.*
3. *to provide a prayerful, caring, safe and learning environment.*
4. *to be a welcoming, inclusive and invigorating community.*
5. *to reach out to local, national and international concerns with prayer and practical help.*
6. *to seek peace and reconciliation with the help of God’s grace.*

* To develop and implement a new mission statement which tackles the question of: “*How can we meet and connect generously with all who are newer to our village and church?”*
* To enable the worshipping life of the church to continue to evolve - to work within the existing pattern but continue to develop different approaches. To continue with this process of experimentation within an ongoing tradition, combining new and old ways of praising God. To continue to develop the use of music in worship.
* To encourage a welcoming and an inclusive community, and especially for the church to be a place where people who are marginalised or excluded in wider society can feel that they fully belong. PCC has given unanimous endorsement of the previous priest-in-charge’s decision to offer Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.
* To develop work with children and youth, through which the good news can be shared, and young people might realistically begin a journey of discipleship.

**2. Key Contacts**

* Churchwardens, Officers and PCC of St Brandon’s
* Area Dean, Lay Chair and Deanery Chapter
* Archdeacon of Durham
* Mission, Discipleship & Ministry Team – especially the Growing Younger Team
* Community of the Well (based at Brancepeth Castle)

**3. Person Specification**

The Priest in Charge will be a person who:

* Understands and works with good processes and practice; ensuring the PCC and congregation have a dynamic relationship to their vision, enabling growth in all its aspects, along with building discipleship and mission
* Models what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and who can enable others to grow as disciples, nurturing new and established Christians
* Optimises the gifts and talents of the congregation through discerning, developing and using their gifts both within the church and in mission to the community.
* Continues the culture of generous giving, resulting in increased giving, increased income and increased opportunities
* Establishes strong relationships in the community
* Promotes and encourages a missional mindset and sees the whole of church life through this lens
* Supports and enables the congregation and their relationships in the community as tools for mission
* Helps the congregation to discern new missional opportunities and enable them to develop new sustainable ministries
* Encourages and enables growth through mission, an accessible and welcoming culture, harnessing those on the fringe and vibrant worship
* Champions ministry among children, young people and families ensuring the church is “growing younger”
* Develops strong pastoral relationships so that the church can develop and implement processes for pastoral care and growing new leaders

**4. Role Context**

This is a part-time role, which could be joined with another to make a full-time role; one possibility being the part-time chaplain’s role at St Chad’s College, Durham University.

Brancepeth is distinctive within the local area. It is not, like so many local towns and villages, an ex-mining community. Rather, the castle (with St Brandon’s church right next to it) formed the nucleus around which the village developed. Older housing built up over the centuries has been joined in more recent decades by a couple of small new estates and a scatter of individual houses. Most of the houses are owner-occupied.

The village is surrounded by farmland and the parish includes several scattered farms and cottages. The whole village lies within a conservation area, and many of the older buildings are listed.

Brancepeth’s population is largely (though not exclusively) white, middle-class, and professional. Many of the residents are incomers to the region, and there are relatively few indigenous northeasterners. There is a larger than average number of retired people, and correspondingly a relatively small number of young families. This demographic is in significant contrast to the surrounding population centres.

Brancepeth has a population of 432 (2021 census). It has a current IMD ranking of 5221 out of 12239 in terms of deprivation. (where 1 is the most deprived and 12239 is the least deprived).