

Diocese of Durham

Role description signed off by: Archdeacon of Sunderland

Date: 24.04.24

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

Details of Post

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| Role Title: | Priest-in-Charge |
| Name of benefice: | Bensham and teams (St Chad's) |
| Deanery: | Gateshead |
| Archdeaconry: | Sunderland |
| 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 to:

- Energise Growth
- Engage with Children, Youth and Young People,
- Challenge Poverty and
- Care for God's Creation.

These are outlined and expressed in the Diocesan Mission Strategy, 'Renewing Pilgrimage'.

General

- To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls in these parishes, in line with the Diocesan Vision, Priorities and Strategy described above.
- To be the parish priest of 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 PCCs towards the development of the local churches (both the people and their buildings) so that the churches are sustainable and effective in mission.
- To ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching and pastoral care is provided so that people are enabled 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 parishes; to seek to identify potential future leaders and ministers. Where there is a Shared Ministry Development Team, to work with it as described in the SMDT 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, through the Deanery Plan, participate in the shaping of ministry as resources and opportunities may require.(See further under “Role Context below.)
- To be proactive and persistent in seeking the fullest degree of ecumenical cooperation wherever possible.

Specific

- To help the church to work well together, enable growing and thriving, while sharing ministers and resources across the grouping with St Helen’s Gateshead..
- To be open, creative and innovative in leading worship, including all-age worship, whilst also being mindful of the needs of those who value existing and traditional forms of worship.
- To grow and develop ministry amongst children, young people and families across the two parishes.
- To work alongside and support the schools.
- To work with the St Chad’s project and to be a trustee with a view to becoming a Chair.

3. Key Contacts

Churchwardens:

PCC Secretary:

Area Dean – Revd Yvonne Greener

Clergy of the deanery, Area Dean and Archdeacon of Sunderland

4. Role Context

This is a genuinely exciting role, with real opportunities for community engagement and mission. There are opportunities to engage and re-engage with local schools and local Anglican churches, but also ecumenical partners.

There are opportunities for mission to be found in the occasional offices particularly with reference to baptisms and funerals.

The mission and outward focus has waned in the recent past but the parish are excited by the prospect of engaging in mission, particularly with young people and families.

Attitude to finance is good in the parish but an emphasis on stewardship is needed.

St Chad's need to be more outward focussing in their enabling of evangelistic mission. Their new priest will need to facilitate that with them