*Clergy Role Description*

**Diocese of Durham**

*Role description signed off by:* Archdeacon of Durham Date: 2.2.23

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:* Priest in Charge

*Name of benefice:* Durham St Giles, Sherburn St Mary & St Cuthbert Shadforth

*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 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 encourage visionary and strategic thinking; to create a new Mission Plan and work with the Diocesan priorities especially in the more deprived areas of the Benefice.
* To continue to help the churches and their congregations to work well together, developing their relationships with one another and growing and thriving.
* To help the congregations share their Christian faith, nurture discipleship and help new people come to faith, so that the churches grow in discipleship, reach and numbers.
* To encourage and enable lay ministry, recognising the vocation of all God’s people, identifying and developing the gifts that God has given his people.
* To develop ministry among children, young people and families.
* To work well with local schools and colleges, particularly St Hild’s College CE (Aided) Primary School.
* To be focused on Sacramental ministry in all three churches and to be flexible enough to cater for different church traditions and worship styles; also to explore different forms of worship and services.
* To work alongside the PCC in reviewing their buildings and the usage of them and to support, encourage and enable any consequent reordering of those buildings and support the search for any funding necessary for this work.
* To actively seek partnerships and collaboration with local people and organisations in pursuing the mission of the churches, with regard particularly to the desire of all to connect positively with their neighbourhood.
* To work consciously to enable the churches in their recovery process from the Covid-19 pandemic, and to enable them to resource and support their communities in doing so.
* To actively lead and encourage the environmental net zero footprint and 2030 challenge.

**3. Key Contacts**

* The Churchwardens and members of the PCC
* The Associate Minister, other local clergy (including retired) and lay leaders
* Clergy of the Deanery, the Area Dean and Archdeacon of Durham
* Local MP and councillors
* Head Teachers of local schools, especially St Hild’s College CE (Aided) Primary School.
* Ecumenical colleagues

**4. Role Context**

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| St Cuthbert’s, St Mary’s and St Giles’ churches make up one benefice of two parishes (St Mary’s and St Cuthbert’s form one parish).  |
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| Durham, St Giles – consecrated in 1112 and Grade I listed, it lies to the east of Durham City, with easy access to all amenities. The population is approximately 6,000, of which one third are students. There is a variety of social housing, private estates, purpose-built student accommodation, a Women’s Refuge, accommodation for the homeless and part of the parish is the College of St Hild and St Bede, which is part of Durham university. The housing reflects the social economic status of the parish – parts are designated urban priority areas with many deprived families and individuals and drug and alcohol dependency. There are also many elderly people, alongside more affluent households. There are four primary schools - Gilesgate, St Hild's (C of E), Laurel Avenue and St Joseph’s (RC). Three other churches lie within the parish – St Joseph's RC, Durham City Baptist Church and The Lighthouse Church (independent). Two GP surgeries - Claypath Medical Centre and Sunderland Road Medical Centre. There are also four well used community centres/hubs.  |
| St. Mary’s, Sherburn Village and St. Cuthbert’s in Shadforth form one parish, with one PCC although administration and finances are currently maintained separately. St Mary’s was consecrated in 1872. Sherburn is largely a commuter village, 3 miles east of Durham City and has a population of c.3,600. It is well served with retail units, pubs and a working men’s club, a small care home, community centre and sports centre and primary school. The village has mixed housing of both private and local authority/housing association; a large proportion of Sherburn Village remains social housing. The village has expanded over the last twenty years and is currently building up to a hundred new dwellings. New housing estates have altered the overall social classification of the parish, however there still remains some pockets of social deprivation.  |
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| St Cuthbert’s was consecrated in 1839, it is a Grade II listed early Victorian church in an attractive rural setting. The population across the three villages is c.1,200 and is located 4 miles east of Durham City in the village of Shadforth. The church covers three small, quite different village communities of Shadforth, Sherburn Hill, and Ludworth. There is no school in Shadforth and the one at Sherburn Hill closed recently. There is a primary school in Ludworth.  |
| Since the vacancy and pandemic, the three churches have grown closer and more responsive to any challenges that have arisen. Sharing one Office Administrator based at St Giles’ has provided good oversight, communications and centralised processes. All six churchwardens meet regularly with the Administrator and supporting clergy to agree a 6-month roster for clergy support, to highlight any issues, agree on dates for combined services and to support each other with social events.  |