*Clergy Role Description*

**Diocese of Durham**

*Role description signed off by:* Archdeacon of Auckland Date: July 2024

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 (0.5 FTE; in the diocese of Durham this

is understood to mean working on Sunday and three

days a week)

*Name of benefice:* St John Egglescliffe

*Deanery:* Stockton

*Archdeaconry:* Auckland

*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 this parish, in line with the Diocesan Vision, Priorities and Plan described above.
* To be Priest-in-Charge 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 Priest-in-Charge must give due regard to safeguarding policy and practice.
* To work with the PCC towards the development of the church (both the people and their building) so that the church is 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.
* 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 provide real leadership in the parish, enabling the PCC and congregation to develop the mission and ministry of the church as a body.
* To help the PCC and the congregation to develop their vision and their approaches to mission and ministry, showing leadership in this area while working collaboratively.
* To develop opportunities for the congregation to grow in faith and discipleship.
* 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 offer or identify sources of training opportunities within this as appropriate.
* To engage with the community and help the congregation to develop their missional engagement with the community.
* To explore clearly, with the PCC and congregation, ways to grow the church.
* To work with the congregation on the development of both outreach and pastoral care.
* To help the church to pursue good practice in stewardship, fundraising and financial sustainability.
* To seek to develop relationships with the schools within the parish, especially Egglescliffe Church of England Primary school.
* To try particularly to develop the church’s mission and ministry among children, young people and families.

**3. Key Contacts**

* The Churchwardens and members of the PCC
* Clergy of the deanery (especially local clergy who have supported St John’s in the vacancy), the Area Dean of Stockton and the Archdeacon of Auckland.
* Ecumenical colleagues.
* Local elected members and community leaders.
* Regular users of the Church Hall.
* Local businesses.
* Schools (Egglescliffe Church of England Primary, Rosedene Nursery School, Junction Farm School, Durham Lane School, Links Primary School, Egglescliffe Comprehensive and Sixth Form College).
* Youth for Christ worker, there will be a full-time worker beginning September 2024.

**4. Role Context**

The people of St John’s are looking for the leadership of a vicar who will help them develop the mission and ministry which they offer in the parish. The very committed Wardens, PCC and congregation have maintained the worship, fabric and governance of the church with great faithfulness during a long vacancy (since July 2021). They now are looking forward to developing the church’s mission – seeking to grow and to grow younger – under the leadership of a new incumbent.

The new Priest-in-Charge will obviously take a leading role in Sunday worship, and a high level of skill and creativity in the development of worship styles and preaching will be important. However, this needs to be part of a clear overall strategy, integrating a missional approach to worship with realistic approaches to enabling the people of this parish to encounter Christ and come to faith. The PCC are clear that they want to grow, especially grow younger. The need for openness to new ways of working and worshipping and the development of new approaches to mission is recognised; still, the new PiC will need to be skilled in helping the PCC and congregation develop and own their vision for this and manage the change needed to implement that vision well. We seek a truly collaborative leader – both a clear leader and one who is clearly collaborative; this will be important to enable the development of a vision and of mission that is truly owned and shared here.

Developing good relationships with schools is likely to be crucial within this. However, discernment about the kinds of work that are developed within that engagement will be important, in particular ensuring that work which has the potential of enabling children and young people to find a living faith in Christ is prioritised. (Of course, pastoral support for schools has value in itself and can build bridges which then enables directly missional engagement, but keeping the overall priority of seeking to see children and young people come to Christian faith in view will be key.) Beginning September 2024 there will be a full-time volunteer Youth for Christ worker attached to the parish, who will add real capacity here.

It will be important also to be clear about the work that the PiC should do, and that which s/he should *not* do, so that both their time and gifts are used wisely, and the gifts of all in the church are developed and used. This is always important, but all the more so given that this is a 0.5 FTE post. Having said this, the parish population is smaller than many – 7, 945 – and this is also not an area of deprivation: it ranks 11337 out of 12239 parishes nationally in the Index of Multiple Deprivation, meaning this is one of the wealthiest parishes (top 8%) in the country. This should mean that the PiC here is released to be more intentional about their work (compared to the more frequent demands and challenges of an *ad hoc* often faced by colleagues in parish situations where there is more evident deprivation). Nevertheless, wise discernment and determined prioritisation will clearly be vital.

*A note on housing:*

Potential applicants for this post will have noticed there is no reference to housing in the Parish Profile. The successful applicant will be provided with suitable housing for the better performance of their duties in the parish. However, we do not currently have a parsonage here. If a suitable candidate is identified and offered the post, the Diocesan Board of Finance will at that point purchase a suitable property as soon as possible.

*SJ Eggs PiC 0.5 RD*

*2024.08.01 v01*