*Clergy Role Description*

**Diocese of Durham**

*Role description signed off by:* Archdeacon of Auckland Date: 01.09.23

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 St Aidan with St Columba,

within the Central Hartlepool Group Ministry

*Name of benefice:* St Aidan with St Columba, Hartlepool

(CHGM also includes St Luke, Hartlepool and All Saints,

Stranton)

*Deanery:* Hartlepool

*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 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 continue to help the churches of the CHGM to work well together, growing and thriving, while sharing ministers and resources across the group.
* 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.
* Alongside the Priest in Charge of All Saints and St Luke’s and lay leaders, to offer leadership within the Communities of Hope Project and to support the work of the Steering Group.
* To continue to grow and develop ministry amongst children, young people and families.
* To work well with and continue to develop relationships with the church schools, state schools and colleges in the parish and throughout the CHGM.
* To encourage and support those engaged in ministry in support of refugees, and to demonstrate love and compassion to those seeking asylum.
* To work with volunteers, local organisations and groups to alleviate poverty, including through the work of St Aidan’s Kitchen and the town Foodbank.
* Work with the PCCs to establish sustainable patterns of ministry across the churches of the Group.

**2. Key Contacts**

Priest in Charge (All Saints & St Luke’s): Revd John Bell

Churchwardens:

St Aidan’s and St Columba’s – Mrs Helen Rochester and Miss Jane Spears

All Saints Stranton – Mrs Angela Craig and Mr Rohan Wanduragala

St Luke’s – Mr Robert Darling and Mrs Julia Taylor

PCC Secretaries:

St Aidan’s and St Columba’s – Mrs Kathrine Batty

All Saints Stranton – Mrs Maureen Anderson

St Luke’s – Mrs Julia Taylor

Parish Administrators:

St Aidan’s and St Columba’s – Mrs Kathrine Batty

All Saints Stranton – Mrs Trish Playfor

St Luke’s – Mrs Julia Taylor

Associate Priests - Revd Andrew Craig, Revd Kevin Tones

Readers – Mrs Mary Tones, Mrs Linda Dott

Area Dean – Revd Canon Janet Burbury

The Archdeacon of Auckland

Church Schools:

St Aidan church of England Memorial Primary School

**Headteacher:** Miss Gillian Hood

Ward Jackson Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mr D Akers

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Campbell

State school and colleges in the three parishes:

Kingsley Primary, Eskdale Academy, Rift House Primary, Jesmond Gardens Primary, Throston Primary, West Park Primary, Stranton Primary, High Tunstall College, Brinkburn Sixth Form College,

We also have links with English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Caretaker of St Luke’s Parish Centre - Mr Ken Ansell

Clergy of the deanery, Area Dean and Archdeacon of Auckland

Local councillors for the three wards covered by the parishes

Chief Executive of the Borough Council – Mrs **Denise McGuckin**

Mayor of Hartlepool – Mr Shane Moore

MP of Hartlepool – Mrs Jill Mortimer

**3. Role Context**

This is a genuinely exciting role, with a unique group of churches in the centre of Hartlepool. The parishes of the CHGM are on a journey with God and with one another, and have become united by their commitment to their local communities, with a strong calling to loving service. They together represent and celebrate the rich diversity of the Anglican Church in their prayer, worship and teaching. After a long period of conversation and consultation, the Group came together in 2020 and the clergy in post at that time worked together to establish new relationships, celebrate the diversity of the group and help to set the vision for the future. The Hartlepool Communities of Hope Project was also formed in 2020, with the parishes as equal partners.

There are no structural links between the parishes (this is not a formal team ministry or united benefice) and there is no formal Group leader. The three parishes are committed to forming relationships based on trust, respect and integrity. Two stipendiary posts are allocated to the Group, and the PCCs are clear that the two priests are of equal status, and they are each licenced to all three parishes. The informal Group Council, with representatives from each PCC (and chaired in rotation by a lay person) is a collaborative space where individual views are respected and decisions reached by consensus. There is no desire or urgency to introduce more formal structures, but every incentive to develop the Council as the basis of reaching a deepened and shared understanding of the parts that form the whole and a place where priorities, demands and resources can be negotiated and shared with respect and grace.

There is a shared commitment to the Hartlepool Communities of Hope Project, which is resourced through SDF funding and works across the area to build contact with local people and share good news with the whole community. Joining the Steering Group of the Community of Hope and providing leadership within it will be an important part of the minister’s role. It is an open question who chairs the CoH Steering Group: this can be a lay person, or may be either of the stipendiary ministers in the Group. Mutual discernment about who leads in this and other areas of ministry needs to take into account the gifts and skills of the individuals, and the way in which the workload arising from all areas of ministry across the Group is shared.

The new Priest-in-Charge of St Aidan’s and St Columba’s will therefore need to work well relationally and be thoroughly collaborative with all three PCCs and congregations, the Communities of Hope Project, and the Priest-in-Charge of All Saints and St Luke’s. S/he will need to join the ongoing shared task of evolving the parishes’ visions for the future and their missional priorities.

As noted, two stipends are allocated to the Group within the Hartlepool Deanery Plan. In 2022 diocesan finances allowed us to advertise the first post, and the churches were open about which church(es) the successful applicant would be Priest-in-Charge of. This in itself demonstrated the depth of openness and commitment to one another achieved in the CHGM. The parishes entered this process knowing that in due course the second appointment would become possible, and at that point, we would advertise specifically for whichever post had not been filled.

Rev John Bell was appointed in 2022; it became clear that he would be Priest-in-Charge of All Saints Stranton and St Luke’s. He has also served the whole group in the year since then (the appointment process had made clear this would be expected). This second appointment to the group is therefore as Priest-in-Charge of St Aidan’s and St Columba’s. This means that the next priest needs to be a person both comfortable within the Anglo-Catholic tradition of this parish and able to value and affirm the traditions of the other churches in work in the wider the group.

As indicated above, neither stipendiary minister acts as Group leader for the CHGM: the two Priests-in-Charge have equal status, and decisions about work – and the sharing of work – are made collaboratively. A priest applying for this role needs to understand this arrangement. Each Priest-in-Charge has permission to officiate in all churches of the Group, while each Priest-in-Charge ultimately has discretion over the parish(es) / church(es) in their own charge. Obviously, in a context like this, good relationships and determinedly collaborative ways of working are essential.

*St A&C / CHGM RD Aug 2023 v3*