

## **Incumbent of St John the Evangelist, Bierley**

### **ROLE DESCRIPTION**

Role description signed off by Ven Dr Andy Jolley, Archdeacon of  
Bradford

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018

To be reviewed 6 months from appointment and 3 yearly thereafter

#### **1 Details of post**

Role title (as on licence): Incumbent of St John the Evangelist, Bierley

Name of benefices: Benefice of St John the Evangelist, Bierley

Episcopal area: The Episcopal Area of Bradford

Archdeaconry: Archdeaconry of Bradford

Deanery: Outer Bradford

Initial point of contact on terms of service: Archdeacon of Bradford

#### **2 Role Purpose**

##### **General**

To build up the Kingdom of God in Bierley by

- building up the existing congregation through the ministry of word and sacrament;
- helping to lead the congregation into growth in depth of discipleship, in numbers and in service to their local communities
- creatively developing links with local communities so that the church becomes increasingly a sign of God's love to all those who live in the parish;
- leading in ministry and mission to the wider community, developing outreach strategies to create opportunities for individuals to discover God's love for them and choose to become followers of Jesus Christ;
- discovering opportunities to work with the people of Bierley, of any faith and none, for the 'common good' of the local neighbourhood as a whole.
- undertaking parish priest duties including conducting funerals, weddings, baptisms and other occasional offices.
- leading in pastoral care, teaching, nurturing faith and the planning and leading of worship and preaching.
- leading in ministry to all, from the elderly to young families and children.

- encouraging lay ministry and the participation of our congregation in leading elements of worship and service.
- leading the administration of the parish and undertaking any other reasonable duties as appropriate.

## **Specific**

1. Excellence in liturgy and catholic worship: stipendiary clergy deployment for Anglicans of the Catholic tradition petitioning for extended episcopal oversight in the city of Bradford is being focused on St John's. The provision of excellent worship within this tradition is therefore a priority so that Anglicans of this background can find a flourishing home at St John's. St John's must also be a place where those who are supportive of women's ordained ministry and for whom St John's is their local parish church, are also welcome and can flourish.
2. Engagement with the Diocese: The Bishop of Bradford is very supportive of St John's retaining its theological position and looks to the church to continue to play a full part within the rhythm of Diocesan life.
3. Visible presence in the local community: St John's has built a good reputation for serving the wider community, not least through its charity shop and the outstanding Church Primary School. The new incumbent will be expected to maintain and build upon this reputation, maintaining a highly visible presence in the local community.
4. Outreach to children, young people and families: there are good opportunities to work with St John's Church of England Primary School and also with Newhall Park Primary School. Restarting Messy Church may be one appropriate way forward.
5. Fostering dynamic partnerships with other local churches: there are other churches nearby who are committed to mission in this area, and so the new incumbent will be expected to seek positive partnerships with other local church leaders. In particular, the neighbouring parish of Tong & Laisterdyke shares an interest in St John's School and has considerable experience in projects working with those most in need. There is also a small independent church (Bethel Community Church) within Bierley which is now led by a group which came from St John's, Bowling – another next door parish, which is evangelical. Bethel looks forward to seeing what can be done together.
6. Outreach to newcomers to the parish: the parish has grown in recent years as more residential building has taken place. This provides more opportunities for the church and challenge of where to focus in mission. Outreach to new housing developments will therefore be a key priority, and one which is also on the agenda of many of the other churches in the Outer Bradford Deanery.
7. Engagement with other local institutions and employers: for example, the local Asda supermarket has welcomed the priest at Bierley to be a light touch part-time chaplain at the supermarket. This could open up again, depending on the local manager. There is also a local Cygnet (psychiatric) Hospital and two care homes in the parish.
8. Multi-faith work as it emerges with continued demographic changes in the parish: the parish of Bierley, like others in the Outer Bradford Deanery, is starting to find people of

other faith, particularly Muslim, backgrounds moving in. The new incumbent will be expected to be alert to these developments and to seek to engage positively with them.

### **3 Key Working Relationships**

<i>Generic</i>	Churchwardens and PCC 3 Readers Clergy and Laity in the Deanery of Outer Bradford
<i>Specific</i>	Clergy of Tong & Laisterdyke parish and Bierley Bethel Ministers of other churches in the area Head teachers of St John's School and Newhall Park primary school
<i>Future</i>	Local councillors
<i>Supportive</i>	The Area Dean of Outer Bradford The Archdeacon of Bradford The Bishop of Bradford The Bishop of Wakefield The Episcopal Area Clergy Development Officer Leading your Church into Growth (the course and mentoring) Human Resources Manager, Diocesan Office Clergy Counselling Support

### **4 Archdeacon's Comments**

There have been two significant parishes from within the accessible Catholic tradition of the Church of England in the city of Bradford, both of which have voted for extended episcopal oversight. One of these is St John's Bierley (and the other is St Chad's Toller Lane). The Diocese is very supportive of St John's retaining its theological position and looks to it to continue to play a full part within the rhythm of Diocesan life.

There is an allocation of a full-time stipendiary post for those Anglicans in the Bradford Area who have sought Extended Episcopal Oversight and are not persuaded by the Church of England's decision to ordain women. After exploring possible ways of allocating the available stipendiary clergy resources for such parishes in the Episcopal Area, the decision has been made to seek a full-time vicar at St John's Bierley. This decision reflects the Bishop's commitment to ensuring the retention of a strong and flourishing presence of the accessible Catholic tradition within the Anglican church in the Bradford Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds.

A full-time post is a greater level of deployment than would normally be offered for a parish of the size of Bierley. In addition to the usual expectations of a parish priest, we are therefore expecting that the new vicar will provide a welcoming and flourishing home for those of the catholic tradition beyond the parish boundaries who would welcome Extended Episcopal Oversight. This must not be at the expense, however, of the many people at St John's who do support the Church of England's decision to ordain women.

St John's Bierley is a church in good heart which wishes to both honour the tradition in which it stands, welcome new people into the Christian community and serve the wider community. It is therefore a great example of a Church of England church in the Catholic tradition that engages well with its parish and context alongside a commitment to playing a full part in Diocesan life.

St John's has grown gently until the current vacancy. The last incumbent reflected on the ebb and flow of young families coming to church and noted that some had stopped coming. The next incumbent and PCC will need to look at this change in trend and discern ways forward. How significant is the school's change of admissions policy? How does Messy Church contribute to the future? A priority is to start up Messy Church again.

Great efforts have been made in recent years to refurbish St John's so that it is a both a fine place for worship and a community space where people can meet and feel at home when they come to Messy Church. There is a great resource in the thriving church charity shop which is a real help to members of the local community and also generates funds which support St John's. There is also an outstanding church school which is an impressive contribution to the wider community with several members of the congregation involved in it.

The parish has grown in recent years as more residential house building has taken place. This provides more opportunities for the church and challenge of where to focus in mission? Engaging with people moving into new-build housing is an important priority.

Depending upon the manager in post, the local Asda supermarket has welcomed the priest at Bierley to be a light touch part-time chaplain at the supermarket. It is possible that this may open up again.

Our vision as a Diocese is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. In appointing to this post, we are therefore looking for someone who is a visionary and enabling leader, and has a joyful and confident faith which can inspire church growth, both numerically and spiritually.

The future lies in churches working together more than ever before. As we look at the parishes across the city of Bradford and plan for a shared future within the new Diocese, St John's needs to play a full part in those conversations. How may we encourage one another and be accountable to one another as we grow in confidence in Christ and in our neighbouring churches?

There are other churches nearby who are committed to mission in this area. In addition there is a small independent church (Bethel Community Church) within Bierley which is now led by a group which came from St John's, Bowling - the next door parish, which is evangelical. Bethel looks forward to seeing what can be done together.

St John's is located in the new Deanery of Outer Bradford. The Deanery is comprised of parishes similar in demographic context to St John's, many of whom are experimenting with mixing new approaches to worship and mission alongside inherited patterns. The new incumbent will therefore find a group of creative and supportive colleagues in Deanery chapter, all of whom will be deeply familiar with the joys and challenges that each other faces. Hence, the new post holder will be expected to play a full part in the life of the Deanery, the Episcopal Area and diocese, working with a spirit of generosity in sharing wisdom and insights about ministry and mission.

Leading your Church into Growth (LYGiG) and Jesus Shaped People (JSP) are two excellent initiatives born in the Bradford Episcopal Area and now adopted in other Dioceses. They have enabled church growth and developed confidence in congregations. Experienced mentors and training are available to new incumbents to make the most of LYGiG and JSP.