

Role Description: Benefice of Beadnell, Ellingham and North Sunderland

1 Introduction

The role description gives an outline of the responsibilities of a position. These may develop while someone is in post and this document will need to be kept up to date. It should be reviewed as necessary at Ministerial Development Review, alongside the setting of objectives.

2 Details of post

- 2.1 Role title: Vicar of Beadnell, Ellingham and North Sunderland
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Beadnell, Ellingham and North Sunderland
- 2.3 Patronage: (1) The Bishop of Newcastle and the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral, jointly (2) The Newcastle Diocesan Society and the Trustees of the Lord Crewe Charity, jointly
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Bamburgh & Glendale; Lindisfarne
- 2.5 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne

3 Role purpose: General

- 3.1 To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls.
- 3.2 Ever prayerful and mindful of the responsibilities laid upon you in the Ordinal, the Canons, national Safeguarding policies, and all other relevant legislation, in accordance with the Archbishops' statement *Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy*, your ministry will be shaped by the Diocesan commitments to Seeking, Sharing, Sending, and marked by a generosity of spirit, an engagement with the people and situations you serve, and an openness to the promptings of God's love.
- 3.3 Your priestly vocation demands the careful preparation for, and the leading of public worship, the imaginative proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the loving service of all God's people entrusted to your care. Together with your priestly colleagues and lay ministers, you will work collaboratively to enable the gifts of all God's people to be developed in the Service of his Kingdom.
- 3.4 In your priestly ministry you will take an active part in the Diocesan commitment to Seeking, Sharing, Sending. This will include collaborative parish conversations and planning for mission and ministry as well as working with colleagues across the Deanery and more widely in the life of the Diocese. A number of supports are available to you through the provision of work consultants, spiritual directors and Continuing Ministerial Formation programs, and you will be expected to participate in the scheme of Ministerial Development Review.
- 3.5 Above all, you will remember that we are called to minister by a gracious, generous self-giving and loving God, as together we seek the Kingdom, share the faith, search for truth, serve our neighbour and follow Jesus in his suffering love for the salvation of all people.

Role Purpose – Generic and Specific

- 3.6 To take responsibility for pastoral care, occasional offices and leading of regular public worship in the benefice of Beadnell, Ellingham and North Sunderland.
- 3.7 To be the Chair of Governors for the Seahouses Hostel, Seahouses, working collaboratively with the other trustees and the warden of the hostel.
- 3.8 To work with the PCCs and key laity to develop a collaborative pattern for ministry across the whole benefice and to encourage and nurture the ministry of lay people discerning gifts and signposting to training and support as appropriate.
- 3.9 To work collaboratively with members of the Bamburgh and Glendale Deanery Chapter and Synod, maximising the positive impact of formal and informal links with stipendiary, self-supporting and active retired clergy, as well as ALMs, mutually discerning where collaboration across the benefices may be beneficial.
- 3.10 To be a visible and involved presence in the settlements of the benefice and to take an active interest in rural and coastal matters as they impact on local communities, recognising and adapting to the different contexts of the three parishes.
- 3.11 To work with local schools and businesses, being open to partnership working with others beyond the church walls, including the many tourists and pilgrims to the area, to develop mission for the common good.
- 3.12 With the three PCCs, to produce action plans for the benefice to enable the growth of the local church in numbers, spiritual depth and missional engagement, including developing our opportunities for intergenerational worship and working.
- 3.13 To create opportunities for parishioners to explore the scriptures in small groups and to develop in their Christian knowledge and practical discipleship.
- 3.14 To stimulate the PCCs to develop the use of their buildings so that they better serve the needs of their local communities.
- 3.15 To continually access fresh resources for ministry, to engage in the diocesan programme for Continuing Ministerial Development and to take time to develop personal spirituality.

Key contacts and relationships

- 4.1 Generic
 - a. The Bishop and Archdeacon of Lindisfarne;
 - b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils;
 - c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;

4.2 Specific

- a. The three PCCs, local retired clergy, Readers, ALMs and Anna Chaplains in the benefice.
- b. The trustees and warden of Seahouses Hostel
- c. Local businesses including farming, fishing and tourism industries, Ellingham Hall and Doxford Hall.
- d. Local Parish Councils
- e. Ecumenical partners through 'Farne Churches Together'
- f. The headteacher, staff and families of Seahouses Primary School, Busy Bees Nursery and Ellingham C of E Primary School.

4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne
- b. The Area Dean, Lay Chair and colleagues in the Bamburgh & Glendale Deanery
- c. Work consultant or spiritual director.
- d. Continuing Ministerial Formation Officer, Lay Ministries Development Officer, and others in the Mission and Ministry Team

5. Role Context

This benefice offers an exciting opportunity to grow in leadership skills and develop partnership working skills for a priest who loves rural and coastal ministry. The parishes have growing populations in addition to the huge numbers of tourists and pilgrims who visit each year, so there are considerable opportunities for mission, outreach and partnership working for someone who is collaborative and imaginative in their approach.

Set in this area of outstanding natural beauty, the parishes are nonetheless within easy reach of all the opportunities offered by the nearby picturesque town of Alnwick, the city of Newcastle, as well as the renowned heritage sites of Holy Island and Bamburgh Castle.

The churches have good relationships with the local schools and local businesses as well as local ecumenical partners, so there is an abundance of opportunities for being part of the wider communities and discerning where God is at work beyond the church walls and developing ways of joining in with his mission.

Seahouses Hostel is a popular destination for youth groups from throughout the Northeast, and is supported by an experienced group of trustees as well as a paid warden. The hostel hall is well appointed and well-used by other local groups.

Bamburgh Glendale Deanery is a source of strong collegial support for clergy and lay leaders alike with an active Deanery Development Group, which you will be invited to join in order to help develop the Deanery vision for the coming years.

There are no plans for pastoral re-organisation and the benefice as created in 2019 is working well.

The church buildings are all well cared for: the recent addition of solar panels and battery storage in North Sunderland is proving very timely for reducing energy bills, and the forthcoming servery in Ellingham will aid the PCCs vision to offer more hospitality and additional activities.

The parishes are in good heart and eagerly awaiting the priest whom God is calling to help them collaboratively move forwards with their vision for the next season.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Three
Churches and listing	St Ebba, Beadnell, grade II listed St Maurice, Ellingham, grade II listed St Paul, North Sunderland, grade II listed
Parsonage	At North Sunderland
Other buildings	None
Churchwardens	Two in each parish
Ministers (including local ministry)	There are several active retired clergy in the benefice
Population (2021 census)	Beadnell 416 Ellingham 333 North Sunderland 1,685
Usual Sunday Attendance	Beadnell 25 Ellingham 10 North Sunderland 20-30
Parish Share (2025)	Beadnell £16,432, paid in full Ellingham £4,177, paid in full North Sunderland £20,400, paid in full
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Beadnell: traditional Anglican Ellingham: traditional Anglican North Sunderland: traditional Anglican
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Church members are active in the local community. Partnership with other community organisations, including the community halls, WI and the Seahouses Hub. Links with the Seahouses Hostel. Good links with local schools, especially CofE primary school at Ellingham Support for local, national and international charities.
Business element	None
Ecumenical links	Member of local Council of Churches. Informal contact with local Methodist, Roman Catholic and URC churches

7 Review

The Archdeacon will review this role description with you when you have been in post for six months.