

Role Description – Rainhill



Signed off by: Archdeacon of St Helens & Warrington
Date: September 2025
Role title: Vicar, St Ann's Rainhill and Area Dean of St Helens
Deanery: St Helens
Archdeaconry: St Helens & Warrington

The Leadership role:

For many years we have been working to achieve growth in our diocese. We have used different ways to express this but the aim and direction of travel has remained the same – consistent with the whole of the Church of England. We have articulated a vision for this growth by saying

**we are asking God for a bigger church so that we can make a bigger difference:
more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world.**

In our diocesan vision we have identified four priority areas for our work in mission in this season:

- Introducing people to God through Jesus Christ
- Deepening discipleship, especially by means of our Rule of Life
- Developing Christian leaders in every place
- Working for justice

Like everyone entering a new role in the Diocese, you will accept the priority of these areas, and will measure your ministry by effectiveness in these areas. You will be supported and expected to be accountable (through the Ministerial Development Review as well as through regular meetings with your colleagues) for how they are being implemented within your area of responsibility.

In common with all clergy in the diocese, you will work together with others to:-

1. Establish a culture of invitation in evangelism within the local church.
2. Start new worshipping communities and maintain existing healthy worshipping communities that are accessible to all.
3. Establish a culture in the local church of expecting a deepening of discipleship and putting into practice the 6 disciplines of the Rule of Life.
4. Develop prayerfully a strategy for mission and church growth and aligning it with the Diocesan strategy Fit for Mission.
5. Identify, train, release and support new Christian leaders and teams.
6. Encourage vocations by identifying the gifts of others and assisting people to seek God's calling for their lives.
7. Develop the distinctive ministry of the local Church within the wider context of the Diocese, Deanery and local ecumenical setting by establishing and maintaining good collaborative working relationships with clergy and lay colleagues.
8. Lead your congregations both to pray for justice in the Church and the world and to recognize how, working with others, your congregations can work for more justice in the Church, your local communities, and the world.
9. Ensure that safeguarding, financial and other governance disciplines are followed.
10. Collaborate with others to develop a flourishing children and youth ministry.

The Context

Rainhill is a village and civil parish, part of the borough of St Helens and to the south west of the town of St Helens in Merseyside, around 12 miles from the city of Liverpool. The population is around 16000 and growing, with new housing developments. The village centre has a good selection of shops, and Rainhill has a significant number of schools, churches, medical facilities and voluntary and community organisations.

St Ann's church is at the centre of the village, next to St Ann's Millennium Centre which is a separate registered charity. St Ann's is an active church with a good variety of services, events and activities and is a key part of the local community. St Ann's Church of England Primary School nearby is a Good school with a close relationship with the church.

The deanery of St Helens covers the town of St Helens and some areas around it, with c.18 churches and c.12 stipendiary clergy. Within the deanery is a new larger single parish of ten churches ("Church St Helens") which was created as part of the diocesan Fit for Mission programme, one smaller team ministry and three single parish benefices of which St Ann's is one.

The Priorities:

- As vicar of St Ann's Rainhill:
 - Lead and model excellent worship, teaching and prayer life for all ages.
 - Inspire more of the people of St Ann's to become committed disciples and encourage outreach and support for mission.
 - Nurture and develop the gifts of the laity and encourage their development as Christian leaders.
 - Maintain and develop work with children and young people, including work with church and other schools
 - Play a full part in the life of the Rainhill community and it's public life, including maintaining ecumenical links with other churches.
- As area dean:
 - Carry out the statutory responsibility of area dean, including leading the work of the synod and the development of the clergy chapter.
 - Lead on pastoral care for clergy, readers and lay ministers.
 - Work closely with the team rector of Church St Helens in her responsibility for the large parish in the deanery.
 - Lead on discussions of parish share and ministry allocation and clergy appointments, particularly for parishes outside Church St Helens.

This Role Description will be reviewed biennially at the Ministerial Development Review (MDR) and may be updated subsequent to the MDR to reflect important changes in the ministry of the priest and the context of that ministry, including wider responsibilities in the diocese. Significant changes to this role description should be agreed with the church wardens in consultation with the PCC, in a team ministry with team clergy and with the area dean and signed off by the Archdeacon.