

**Role Description: Benefice of Cornhill with Carham and Branxton and Agricultural Chaplain to
Norham Deanery**

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: Assistant Priest (House for Duty) and agricultural chaplain
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Cornhill with Carham and Branxton
- 2.3 Patronage: (1) PD Straker-Smith (2 & 3) Chapter of Durham Cathedral
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Norham; Lindisfarne
- 2.5 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne

3 Role purpose: General

- 3.1 To assist the incumbent in attending to the cure of souls and to reach out to the agricultural community of the deanery.
- 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 – 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 strategy. 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 minister to the people of and to lead public worship in the parishes of Cornhill with Carham and Branxton.
- 3.7 To develop a presence among, and ministry to, the agricultural community across the deanery.
- 3.8 To support and to work closely with the priest in charge and in particular to agree on appropriate levels of delegation within the life of the three parishes.
- 3.9 To help existing church members deepen their commitment as disciples through informal education and training and to develop their gifts and skills within the church's mission and ministry to the local communities.
- 3.10 To continue to develop a rural fresh expression of church across the three parishes, that will (a) connect with the communities of this part of north Northumberland and (b) enable others to fulfil their potential for ministry and leadership (c) might engage those outside the current worshipping communities such as those working in agriculture.
- 3.11 To be responsible for your own spiritual refreshment and development as a Christian priest.

Key contacts and relationships

4.1 Generic

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

4.2 Specific

- a. The Vicar of Lowick who is also to be priest in charge of Cornhill with Carham and Branxton
- b. Churchwardens and PCCs of the three parishes
- c. Parish Councils in all three parishes
- d. Village Hall Committees in Branxton and Cornhill
- e. Cornhill Community Action Group
- f. Owners of Cornhill village shop and cafe
- g. Owners of the Collingwood Arms Hotel
- h. Editors of 2 local newsletters
- i. The agricultural community in the parishes and the wider deanery

4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne
- b. The Area Dean, Lay Chair and colleagues in the Norham Deanery
- c. Work consultant or spiritual director.

5. Role Context

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with a genuine love of rural life and rural ministry, especially someone with a heart for the agricultural community and their needs. Lay people, with good support and backup from local clergy, take part in leading worship on a regular basis in each of the parishes. Church attendance is small in numbers, but the parish churches are greatly valued by the local communities.

The three churches each have their own distinctive character and are integral to their communities in addition to being places of worship. Cornhill Church is used as an information point for local residents and visitors to the area; and is working with the Parish Council to explore the possibility of developing the churchyard as more of a community resource. Carham church traces its roots right back to St Cuthbert in the 7th century. Given the lack of any other public building in the parish, the church is at an early stage of exploring the possibility of making the church more of a community building. St. Paul's, Branxton is regularly visited by tourists, so managing and developing this aspect of parish life is an important part of the joint activity of parish priest and PCC. Branxton's parish church is now included in the new 'eco-museum' and further details can be found online at www.flodden1513ecomuseum.org

Norham Deanery have discerned the need for a chaplain to the agricultural community, and this will also form an exciting part of this House for Duty role. Full details can be found in the brochure and will include a Christian presence and pastoral support at agricultural events such as auction marts, as well as developing opportunities for fellowship for those in the farming sector for whom traditional Sunday worship is not accessible.

This house for duty post offers the opportunity to be involved in both a more traditional and emerging church, and to work as a supportive colleague of both lay and ordained leaders, in the parishes and the wider deanery.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Three
Churches and listing	St Helen, Cornhill, Grade II listed St Cuthbert, Carham, Grade II listed St Paul, Branxton, Grade II listed
Parsonage	Stone built, four bedroomed house in Branxton Village
Other buildings	None
Churchwardens	Two in Carham and Branxton, one in Cornhill
Ministers (including local ministry)	The Vicar of Norham is also Priest in Charge of

	the parish.
Population	Cornhill 450 Carham 300 Branxton 130
Usual Sunday Attendance	Cornhill 13 Carham 8 Branxton 9
Parish Share (2025)	Cornhill £4,402 Carham £5,760 Branxton £6,159
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests?	No
Church tradition	Low church/traditional
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Cornhill Church is used by the Parish Council and tourist agencies as an information point for local residents and tourists. Carham church is used by the parish council and as a polling station. Many church members are very active in the community.
Business element	None
Ecumenical links	These are limited but often operate through personal relationships, for example the 'Women's World Day of Prayer' happens ecumenically. There is a small Methodist Church in a separate hamlet in Cornhill Parish, whose members have recently been invited to attend the Remembrance Day Service in Cornhill.

7 Review

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