

Role Description: Benefice of Alston Moor

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: Rector of Alston Moor
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Alston Moor
- 2.3 Patronage: The Bishop of Newcastle
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Hexham; 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 vision 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 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 Alston Moor.

3.7 To be a visible and involved presence in the benefice and to take an active interest in local matters as they impact on local communities, recognising and adapting to the diverse demographic needs in the villages and church communities, including the growing tourist and pilgrim populations.

3.8 To help lead and nurture new and deepening collaborations across the churches of the parish so that the gifts and skills of all are developed, new vocations to a variety of ministries emerge, and the partnership between lay and ordained strengthens.

3.9 To work pro-actively in Hexham Deanery Chapter and Synod, maximising the positive impact of formal and informal links with stipendiary, self-supporting and active retired clergy and playing your part in the implementation of the deanery plan for mission and ministry.

3.10 With PCC, to develop an action plan for the benefice to enable the growth of the local churches in numbers, spiritual depth and missional engagement, developing ways for those interested in exploring faith to learn more about the Gospel.

3.11 To review with the PCC the existing activities with children, young people and their families – including schools work - and to plan for new styles of effective engagement, including suitable acts of worship, especially those which might reach out to those who are ‘spiritual’ but not yet Christian.

3.12 To create opportunities for parishioners to explore the scriptures in small groups and to develop in their Christian knowledge and practical discipleship.

3.13 To stimulate the PCC to develop the use of their buildings so that they better serve the needs of their local communities.

3.14 To guide the laity in supporting, jointly with the clergy, those in need of help, welcoming newcomers and nourishing the faith of those already part of the established congregations.

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 Council;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;

4.2 Specific

- a. Ecumenical partners through Alston Moor Churches Together
- b. The Schools of Alston Moor Federation
- c. Alston, Nenthead and Slaggyford WIs
- d. St Augustine's Guides and Brownies
- e. Sports and Leisure clubs
- f. Civic organisations such as Alston Moor Emergency Response Group
- g. Parish Councils
- h. Village and Community Hall committees
- i. Local businesses and tourist attractions
- j. The agricultural community

4.3 Supportive

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

5. Role Context

Alston Moor boasts some of the most stunning scenery in the Northeast and attracts an increasing number of tourists as well as those who choose to retire or relocate to this beautiful part of the country. Despite its picturesque remoteness, it is in only an hour's drive to Newcastle, 45 minutes to Carlisle and half an hour to the delightful market town of Hexham, offering therefore abundant opportunities for commuters and for leisure. The villages of the Moor itself are well resourced with local shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants, especially the town of Alston. The area is a popular holiday destination and is proud of its industrial heritage as well as its agricultural one.

The worshipping communities of the parish are small but resilient and warm and welcoming. St Augustine's has exciting and realistic plans for re-ordering and becoming a hub for the wider community of which the DAC is very supportive. Several of the smaller village churches have vision for hosting additional activities alongside worship so as to be more deeply embedded in their communities. Nenthead has an impressive relationship for instance with its local school. There is scope for more community engagement and for increased working with the schools and with other local organisations, and for the right person this will be an exciting opportunity to ensure these communities continue to thrive and play a growing role at the heart of life on the Moor. There is a deep commitment to stewarding the environment in the church

communities and more widely in the area, so vision for more eco-projects will be welcome. There is an experienced curate in the parish as well as two Readers, a priest with PTO and one Authorised Lay Minister, so a priest with good team leadership skills, who can value, encourage and nurture the vocations of others will enjoy a fruitful ministry here.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	One
Churches and listing	St Augustine, Alston, grade II St John, Garrigill, unlisted Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh, grade II St Jude, Knaresdale, unlisted St Mary & St Patrick, Lambley, grade II St John, Nenthead, unlisted
Parsonage	Stone-built house on the outskirts of Alston
Other buildings	None
Churchwardens	Two at each church (some vacancies at present)
Ministers (including local ministry)	One deacon, expected to be priested in 2026 1 retired priest with PTO 2 Readers: 1 licensed and one PTO 1 Authorised Lay Minister
Population (2021 census)	2,635
Usual Sunday Attendance	St Augustine, Alston 17 St John, Garrigill 7 Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh 9 St Jude, Knaresdale 10 St Mary & St Patrick, Lambley 5 St John, Nenthead 8
Parish Share (2025)	St Augustine, Alston £5,170 St John, Garrigill £300 Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh £3,000 St Jude, Knaresdale £2,612 St Mary & St Patrick, Lambley £675 St John, Nenthead £1,166
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Each church maintains its own tradition. BCP is used at Kirkhaugh. Lambley has historically been Anglo-Catholic
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Alston Aspire project Links with local schools Involvement with local community groups
Business element	None
Ecumenical links	Links with local RC and Methodist churches 'Faith in the Moor' magazine

7 Review

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