

Role Description

Signed off by: Archdeacon of Liverpool
Date: 16th June 2025
Role title: Two year interim 0.5 role as Priest in Charge, St Mary Grassendale (Team Vicar Designate in Christ our Light Liverpool).
Deanery: Liverpool South
Archdeaconry: Liverpool

The Context:

St Mary's Grassendale is a medium/large active church in the south of Liverpool. The church is prominently situated on a main road, with its adjacent parish hall which is well used by a range of church groups and private rentals.

The current parish has a population of 9,076 and a deprivation rating of 23.08. The Parish encompasses a range of socio-economic backgrounds and housing types, with many social housing initiatives within the Parish, and large privately owned Victorian houses in the roads immediately behind the church.

There are excellent transport links locally, with Cressington metro station a 1-minute walk away, a bus stop outside the Church Hall, and a 15 minute ride into the city centre, or to Liverpool John Lennon Airport. The parish includes a local high street, supermarket, Library, Garston park and leisure centre, Otterspool Promenade along the River Mersey, hairdressers, Beauty Therapists, Nursing and Residential Homes, Bars, Restaurants and Cafes and the newly refurbished Adventure Playground - the 'Venny'.

After much thought, St Mary's have committed to joining with several other parishes in Liverpool South Deanery, as a new Single Larger Parish called Christ our Light. This follows the Diocese of Liverpool 'Fit for Mission' strategy. You will be working closely within a team within the Single Larger Parish with much of the administration being looked after by the central support services team, in order to free clergy and laity to focus on missional activity which builds the church and the Kingdom in this place. Over this transitional period, this post is offered on a 0.5 2 year interim post. The aspiration in the Deanery is for a post in this or similar form to continue longer term should funds allow, and you would be part of shaping that future with the wider team and Deanery.

The Priorities:

- Lead the congregations of St Mary's through this transition period, both personally forming strong relationships with the Christ our Light team and leading others in the wider church to do so too.
- Lead the church to address financial giving and stewardship of resources (eg hall lettings), with the support of the diocesan giving and income generation teams, in order to increase parish share to a sustainable level to support the future post
- Build on the strong attendance at family and parade services to deepen discipleship and strengthen and grow the church
- Develop and deepen discipleship with new and existing church members, intentionally growing new leaders and identifying new missional opportunities

The Leadership role in Liverpool Diocese:

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 and be committed 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.

You will be expected to be committed to attending Deanery and Diocesan events, such as Chapter, Clergy Leadership Team meetings arising out of and engaging with Fit for Mission, and Diocesan clergy study days. You will be committed to conducting yourself in accordance with the relevant professional guidelines, to your own personal practice of prayer, and to continuing ministerial education.

Terms and Conditions

This is a 2 year intentional interim post, offered on a 0.5 stipendiary basis.

There may be the option for the right candidate to be named in the Christ our Light pastoral reorganisation scheme as a Team Vicar on a permanent ongoing basis, subject to finances and to Deanery recommendation – the Deanery have currently only been able to commit to a 2 year 0.5 post based on the funds available. This post would therefore suit either someone wishing to offer a short term interim ministry, or someone who would hope to shape the future in a way which would enable a longer term ministry here, and the parish are open to either.

In the diocese of Liverpool part time posts are offered without allocated housing, but with an equivalent pro rata housing allowance. Should a candidate prefer, we are open to discussing this being offered on a House for Duty basis instead.

This Role Description will be reviewed annually 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.