

Signed off by: Archdeacon of St Helens & Warrington
Date: April 2025
Role title: Rector, St Elphin’s Warrington (Team-Vicar-designate, Warrington Team Ministry) and Area Dean of Warrington
Deanery: Warrington
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

Warrington St Elphin (known as Warrington Parish Church) is a Grade II* listed church with a landmark spire and extensive civic role within the town of Warrington. The parish and the town have a rich history and with significant commercial and housing regeneration projects underway, an expanding future.

St Elphin’s is a friendly and welcoming liberal catholic congregation with a Eucharistic focus and the priest appointed will have responsibility for their sacramental and pastoral care, and for the growth of that congregation in spirituality and in numbers.

St Elphin’s already has the key civic ministry across the town and borough and this is an area to be developed, building on the extensive community and civic engagement to develop an expanded vision and strategy for mission. In addition, there is a pastoral ministry to the local resident community and a local church primary school attached.

Warrington Deanery is together taking part in the diocesan Fit for Mission programme and all parishes in the deanery have reconfirmed their plans to become part of a single parish and team ministry serving the whole deanery. It is planned that this reorganisation will take place in early 2026. The postholder will be a key senior colleague for the team-rector-designate in shaping the life of the whole deanery together.

The Priorities:

- As priest at St Elphin’s:
 - Inspire and lead the people of St Elphin’s in developing their witness and mission, as part of the Fit for Mission programme.
 - Lead and model excellent liberal catholic worship, teaching and spirituality for all ages.
 - Develop and encourage local leaders.
 - Support the work and mission of St Elphin’s school.
 - Pay attention to financial sustainability, and develop stewardship & other income.
- As lead for civic ministry:
 - Build relationships with Warrington borough, business and community organisations.
 - Support existing engagement between the church and wider society in Warrington, and develop new ways to use these connections.
- As area dean:
 - Carry out the statutory responsibility of area dean, including leading the work of the synod and the development of the wider clergy chapter.
 - Lead on pastoral care for clergy, readers and lay ministers.
 - Support the team-rector-designate in her responsibility for the work of the clergy team and the strategic development of mission and ministry.

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.