

Role Description: Benefice of Doddington, Ilderton, Kirknewton and Wooler (known as ‘The Cheviot Benefice’)

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: Incumbent of Doddington, Ilderton, Kirknewton and Wooler
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Doddington, Ilderton, Kirknewton and Wooler
- 2.3 Patronage: Alternately by the Bishop of Newcastle and the Duke of Northumberland acting jointly who shall have first turn, and His Majesty in right of His Crown and shall be exercisable by the Lord Chancellor on His behalf.
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Bamburgh and Glendale; 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 – Growing Church Bringing Hope – 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 – Growing Church Bringing Hope: Next Steps. 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 parishes of Doddington, Ilderton, Kirknewton and Wooler.

3.7 To work with the PCCs and key laity to develop a collaborative pattern for ministry across the whole benefice and to encourage and nurture the ministry of lay people discerning gifts and signposting to training and support as appropriate.

3.8 To work with the laity across the benefice so that the gifts and skills of all develop, new vocations to a variety of ministries emerge, and that the partnership between lay and ordained deepens.

3.9 To work collaboratively with the incumbents of the other benefices in the Deanery of Bamburgh Glendale and take an active interest in the work of the Deanery Development Group and the Deanery Planning, mutually discerning where collaboration across the benefices may be beneficial, helping to nurture possible joint ventures and discerning where a cluster approach might be appropriate.

3.10 To be a visible and involved presence in the settlements of the benefice and to take an active interest in rural matters as they impact on local communities, recognising and adapting to the different contexts of the four parishes.

3.11 To work pro-actively in Bamburgh and Glendale Deanery Chapter and Synod, maximising the positive impact of formal and informal links with stipendiary, self-supporting and active retired clergy.

3.12 With the four PCCs, to produce action plans for the benefices to enable the growth of the local church in numbers, spiritual depth and missional engagement.

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

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

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

4.2 Specific

- a. Ecumenical partners including engagement with Glendale Churches Together
- b. Staff and pupils of local schools in Wooler
- c. Staff and residents of local nursing homes
- d. Representatives of civic partners such as Parish Councils, Glendale Gateway Trust
- e. Representatives of Wooler Arts
- f. Representatives of the tourist industry such as the new distillery, Ad Gefrin, and Northumberland National Park.

4.3 Supportive

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

5. Role Context

The parishes are at a point in their lives where a leader is needed to help focus plans for mission and ministry, identify and build on the unique strengths of each community whilst also increasing cross-parish working where appropriate. We seek a leader who will raise up and nurture lay leaders, strengthen outward facing mission and build on existing links with the neighbouring benefices.

We seek a leader who will love these people and places, offering strong pastoral skills and discerning ways to promote spiritual growth, enhance community engagement and inspire missional focus.

Situated in one of the most beautiful parts of the Northumberland National Park, the four parishes of 'the Cheviot Benefice' are not simply 'rural' but can be described as 'deep rural'. The nearest cities are Edinburgh and Newcastle, each over 50 miles away. They are part of the category of communities who have experienced a withdrawal of services in recent decades, which offers new vocations to the Christian community for service and engagement.

There is huge potential to tap into the large number of pilgrims and tourists and maximise the local heritage, whether that be focussed on the outstanding natural beauty of the surrounding area, the ancient history and heritage of the Northern Saints, the beauty of the listed church buildings themselves, or indeed the newly built distillery and visitor centre in Wooler: Ad Gefrin.

There is scope to increase ecumenical working through Glendale Churches Together and community engagement through schools and other community organisations. The relatively newly formed CIO 'Wooler Arts' offers scope for creative engagement and builds on the musical strength in Wooler, whilst other recent mission initiatives focus on serving the needs of these remote localities.

Other leaders in the deep rural parts of the archdeaconry have recently taken part on a 3-year National Lottery Heritage Fund project 'Rural Churches for Everyone': <https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/ruralchurchesforeveryone> and the new priest will be encouraged to seek their wisdom and discern how this learning might apply to the Cheviot benefice.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Four
Churches and listing	St Mary & St Michael, Doddington, Grade I Listed St Michael, Ilderton, Grade II* Listed St Gregory the Great, Kirknewton, Grade II* Listed St Mary, Wooler, Grade II Listed
Parsonage	Five bedroomed detached house at Wooler
Other buildings	Parish Room at Wooler. Church Hall at Ilderton
Churchwardens	Two in each parish
Ministers (including local ministry)	One Reader Lay worship leaders (two pastoral care ALMS and two worship leader ALMs) Active retired clergy
Population (2021 census)	Doddington 166 Ilderton 149 Kirknewton 662 Wooler 2,098
Usual Sunday Attendance	Doddington 6 Ilderton 12 Kirknewton 15 Wooler 25
Parish Share (2021)	Doddington £2,016 Ilderton £7,182 Kirknewton £8,250 Wooler £7,100
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Low to mid Anglican. The Book of Common Prayer is used for Sunday services at Doddington.
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None

Outreach/service to the wider community	Links with local schools Links with local nursing home Wooler Arts use St Mary's for hosting concerts and recitals Ministry to visitors Local educational trust at Kirknewton Members of the churches are involved with other local community groups
Business element	None
Ecumenical links	Good relationships with local Roman Catholic and URC churches.

7 Review

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