

Role Description

Signed off by: Archdeacon of Liverpool
Date: 03/11/25
Role title: Vicar, Aigburth St Anne
Deanery: Liverpool South



The Context

Aigburth is a flourishing suburban area with excellent transport links, good quality schools and local shops and restaurants to the south of Liverpool city. Aigburth is a popular place to live and work. The parish includes four schools, including St Margaret's Church of England Academy which is adjacent to the church.

The parish is confident and financially sound, yet mindful of the need to change and adapt to the continuous challenges of our times. Like many churches, attendance has failed to recover to pre-pandemic levels. There is a real sense within the Parochial Church Council that, despite many past successes, they are at a crossroads, seeking a revitalisation of mission and growth. In recent years the Deanery has explored becoming a single larger parish under the diocesan Fit for Mission scheme; St Anne's has remained as a single parish, with the process identifying a need for change and revitalisation in mission. It is important to the parish that they remain actively engaged in collaboration in a wide and diverse Deanery that fosters team working, the sharing of best practice, and the development of real and lasting fellowship. The person called to be Vicar here will be someone committed to working and worshipping with colleagues across the breadth of the Church of England, focusing on what unites us.

The parish identifies their strengths as:

- Strong and experienced team of ordained, lay and volunteer leaders.
- Sound financial management.
- Compliant building, structurally sound and in good repair.
- A spacious 4-bedroom detached Vicarage in good repair with a large garden located just opposite the Church.
- A 5-strong preaching team including an ordained minister, Reader, Curate, and 2 Lay Preachers
- Varied worshipping styles
- An established presence of children and young people
- Flexible and open space for worship and other activities

The challenges are:

- Falling attendance.
- Insufficient children's and youth worker volunteers.
- A poorly attended Prayer Meeting.
- A Service offering that could better meet the needs of young families.
- An entrance area in need of improved accessibility and a more visibly welcoming first impression.
- Limited presence, visibility and engagement in the wider community.

The Priorities:

- Be an inspiring leader of worship and teacher, developing discipleship within the existing congregation and developing and nurturing new leaders
- lead the PCC in developing a new strategy for growth, addressing the 7 key areas identified, working in collaboration with the teams already begun
- Be a visible presence in the local community, building on existing community links and developing new ones, with a particular focus on developing relationships with schools and with the groups that use the church.
- Be committed to the collaborative working model of the Deanery, working well with colleagues of all theological views both within the parish and in the wider Deanery and Diocese.

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 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 best practice in safeguarding is promoted, and that all financial and other governance disciplines are followed in an exemplary fashion.

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.

Housing

This is a full time role on Common Tenure terms & conditions.

The Team Rector will be provided with housing for the better performance of their duties.