



## Priest in Charge of Christ Church South Ossett

### ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role description signed off by Ven Cat Thatcher, Archdeacon of Pontefract

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

To be reviewed 6 months from appointment and 3 yearly thereafter

### 1 Details of post

Role title (as on licence):	<b>Priest in Charge</b>
Name of benefice:	<b>Christ Church South Ossett</b>
Episcopal area:	<b>The Episcopal Area of Wakefield</b>
Archdeaconry:	<b>Archdeaconry of Pontefract</b>
Deanery:	<b>Wakefield</b>
Initial point of contact on terms of service:	<b>Archdeacon of Pontefract</b>

### 2 Role Purpose

#### Specific

The person appointed will be

1. The priest who will facilitate with other leaders the identification and carrying out of God's vision for ministry and mission in South Ossett, inspiring and motivating the congregation to live Christ-centred lives, treasure the Bible, deepen their relationship with God and encourage them in their use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
2. Committed to reaching out to the community in Ossett in mission and evangelism, with a heart for growing the church in love and commitment to God, in number of disciples, and in loving service to its neighbours.
3. The person who, working with others, will keep the bigger horizon in view, and will see the church in Ossett as an instrument of the Kingdom of God, led by the Holy Spirit to be both

servants of the community alongside other agencies whilst also bringing a prophetic voice to the church and community. This includes working closely with the leaders of other churches in the town, particularly the Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity, Ossett and Gawthorpe, to develop mission and evangelism in the whole town.

4. The leader of the clergy and lay team, which includes a Licensed Lay Minister, two Churchwardens and a PCC as well as a number of other volunteers.

5. the Training Incumbent for any curate deployed to the parish.

6. the person who leads the engagement with the schools, youth centres, nursing/care homes, other churches and neighbourhood initiatives.

### **General**

- To share with the Bishop both in the cure of souls and in responsibility, under God, for “building confident Christians, growing churches and transforming communities”;
- To have regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy and other relevant legislation including safeguarding;
- To build up the Kingdom of God in the parish of South Ossett, and more widely in the Diocese;
- To promote the health of the Church and its growth in numbers, in spiritual commitment and in service to local communities;
- To have regard to the Diocesan Strategy, as expressed in the Barnabas Programme (<https://leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/barnabas-encouraging-confidence/>), and to engage with the Barnabas team insofar as is relevant to the parish.
- To undertake any duties that may reasonably be required of the role.

### **3 Key Working Relationships**

- The Bishop of Leeds
- The Bishop of Wakefield (with responsibility for the Wakefield Episcopal Area)
- The Archdeacon of Pontefract
- The Area Dean and Deanery Lay Chair
- The Deanery Synods and Clergy Chapter
- The Diocesan Office team, including the Human Resources Manager
- The Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team
- The Barnabas Team
- The Area Clergy Development Officer (who is currently the Archdeacon)
- Clergy and lay colleagues
- Churchwardens
- The Parochial Church Council
- Ecumenical partners / Ministers of churches in the area
- Local community partners including schools
- Local councillors and other civic leaders
- Leaders of other religious communities.

*Supportive:*

- Clergy Counselling Support

#### **4 Health and Wellbeing**

The Diocese of Leeds is committed to promote the wellbeing of our clergy and their households in terms expressed in the Church of England's Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing. We also expect our clergy to manage their time well to ensure that they:

- Take a regular day off each week, trying to ensure that this includes the preceding evening and if the weekly day off is compromised for whatsoever reason, to take a day off in lieu;
- Take their full annual leave allowance each year (six weeks holiday plus Bank Holidays, or time in lieu of Bank Holidays);
- Pay attention to their spiritual wellbeing, including daily prayer and Bible reading, reading / learning in general, quiet days and an annual retreat;
- Build collegial relationships across the Deanery, Episcopal Area and Diocese;
- Engage fully with their annual Ministerial Development Review and Continued Ministerial Development and Education;
- Advise the Area Dean, Archdeacon or Area Bishop as early as possible of any health, stress or anxiety concerns;
- Engage in a continuous learning relationship (eg work mentor, spiritual director, peer group) which supports and encourages their ministry. The Area Bishop or Archdeacon can provide a directory of spiritual directors and mentors should this be required.

The Diocese of Leeds works with Health Assured, our Employee Assistance Programme, in delivering a confidential, professional source of support, including a helpline and counselling services, to its clergy and spouses.

Despite the reference to 'Employees', the programme provides services closely suited to the needs of clergy. Details can be seen at <https://www.healthassured.org/>

The HR team at Church House are also available to talk through any issues or questions.

For further information, go to the diocesan website: <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/supporting-clergy/wellbeing-counselling-and-support-for-clergy/wellbeing-counselling-and-support-for-clergy> or ring this free and confidential helpline: 0800 028 0199.

#### **5 Archdeacon's Comment**

Our vision as the Diocese is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. For all of our appointments we are seeking clergy who have a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record (however defined) of church growth. In return we offer a helpful and creative Diocesan Team, focused within the Barnabas Initiative (<https://leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/barnabas-encouraging-confidence/>), ready to support imaginative ministry in the parish.

Christ Church, South Ossett is a single-church parish, one of two serving Ossett, which is in the Metropolitan District of Wakefield and the Wakefield Episcopal Area. Ossett is a prosperous market town, and yet faces many of the common issues of modern life. Christ Church has run a food bank for the last 20 years, as well as a club for adults with learning disabilities and social groups for older folk. There are a number of annual community events in Ossett, such as Ossett

Gala, the Ossett Beercart Festival and the World Coal Carrying Championship, with which the new Priest in Charge will want to engage.

There will be a need for the new Priest in Charge to focus on

- continuing to grow the congregation, spiritually and numerically,
- creatively reaching out to the community in mission and evangelism,
- leading and developing Christ Church's pastoral support to its congregation and the wider community,
- growing children's and youth ministry,
- developing and empowering lay leaders,
- working together with other church leaders in the town, particularly the Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity Ossett and Gawthorpe, to develop collaborative mission and evangelism opportunities.

The Christ Church PCC have adopted the Church of England Evangelical Council's Basis of Faith (with additional declarations), and the new Priest in Charge will need to be able to affirm their agreement with this Basis of Faith, while working collegially with colleagues across the Deanery and Diocese who hold different theological convictions.

The Deanery of Wakefield comprises parishes with a similar history and demographic to South Ossett, and the new Rector will find a supportive and friendly welcome in the clergy chapter. We expect the new post holder to work with a spirit of generosity in sharing wisdom and insights about ministry within the Deanery of Wakefield and across the Episcopal Area.

All new appointees in the Diocese are required to undertake:

- (i) the diocesan induction programme which includes diocesan training for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults,
- (ii) a course on presence and engagement in the context of other faiths, and
- (iii) the residential "*Leading Your Church into Growth*" course (LYCiG).

Leading your Church into Growth (LYCiG) and Jesus Shaped People (JSP) are two excellent initiatives born in this Diocese and now adopted in other Dioceses. They have enabled church growth and developed confidence in congregations. Newly appointed clergy are required to book onto a LYCiG conference within 12 months of their appointment, and ideally to attend with some people from their parish. Experienced mentors and training are available to new incumbents to make the most of LYCiG and JSP.

The accommodation offered will be the Vicarage as detailed in the Parish Brochure. Prior visits, if necessary, can be arranged via the Archdeacon's PA. Please contact [heather.ricks@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:heather.ricks@leeds.anglican.org).