

# Priest in Charge of Leeds St Aidan (Harehills)

## ROLE DESCRIPTION

### Details of post

Role title (as on licence):	Priest in Charge
Name of benefice:	Leeds St Aidan
Patron:	Incumbent of City of Leeds
Episcopal area:	Kirkstall
Archdeaconry:	Archdeaconry of Leeds
Deanery:	East Leeds
Initial point of contact on terms of service:	Archdeacon of Leeds
Terms of Service:	full time
Accommodation:	The Vicarage, Elford Place West, LS8 5QD

The main purposes of the role is to share in *“building confident Christians, growing churches and transforming communities”* in line with the Diocesan vision.

### KEY MISSION TASKS

The key tasks identified by the PCC are expressed in the Parish Profile and brochure.

These could be summarised as:

- To grow the congregation through evangelism
- To develop every-member ministry and lay leadership
- To sustain the social action undertaken by the church

### ARCHDEACON’S COMMENTS

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 of church growth.

St Aidan's has a strong tradition of liturgical worship and spirituality, and a long-standing programme of social action. Alongside this, the lay leaders have identified a need to be explicit about church growth and evangelism, and to develop capacity for every-member ministry and lay leadership.

The church benefits from a very committed small team of lay leaders. It is a feature of the parish that many people come and go; Harehills is for many a place of transition. It is therefore important to involve people in active ministry and to help to develop leaders who can widen this team.

As the church grows in numbers and depth, it should have the capacity to become a supportive resource to collaborate with neighbouring parishes. Three interim priests have recently been recruited to a group of neighbouring parishes, and it is expected that the new priest at St Aidan's will work with them and other colleagues to form a coherent mission strategy for this part of inner east Leeds.

This is part of the Diocese's wider strategy to strengthen our presence and effectiveness with people and resources. This is supported by the Diocesan programme [Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence](#).

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).

The accommodation offered will be the parsonage as detailed in the Parish Brochure. Prior visits, if necessary, can be arranged via Archdeacon Paul Ayers' PA. Please contact [helen.allison@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:helen.allison@leeds.anglican.org)

## GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) to share with the Bishop the cure of souls of the parish in your care;
- b) 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;
- c) to share in building up the Kingdom of God in the parish, in Leeds and across the Diocese.
- d) to promote the health of the Church and its growth in numbers, in spiritual commitment and in service to local communities;
- e) to have regard to the five goals of the [Diocesan Strategy](#) as delivered through the [Barnabas programme](#);
- f) to be supportive of the Leeds Resource Churches programme;
- g) to undertake any duties that may reasonably be required of the role.

## FIVE STRATEGY GOALS

Goal 1: Thriving as a distinctive diocese whose culture is shaped by a shared vision and values

*"Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ". Ephesians 4:15 (NIV)*

- a) With Christ as our model for “Loving, Living and Learning”, to be energised by what it means to be part of the Diocese of Leeds and to see the diocese as “us” rather than “them”: a body of maturing Christians with a shared story to tell and a distinctive part to play.
- b) To be committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our community, and to God’s creation.
- c) To work as part of a diocese that, because of its scale, is making a unique contribution to building the Kingdom of God, while operating at a local level in every parish and episcopal area.

## Goal 2: Reimagining ministry

*“Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”. Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)*

- a) To promote the flourishing of a varied range of models of ministry that are appropriate to context, faithfully yet imaginatively Anglican and financially sustainable.
- b) To work confidently in fruitful clergy/lay partnerships
- c) To actively promote the numerical growth of the church in your care
- d) To work with partners in the local communities to promote evident signs of transformation.

## Goal 3: Nurturing lay discipleship

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters”. Colossians 3:23 (NIV)*

- a) To enable all members of your congregations to mature in their calling as Christians in the whole of their lives and take seriously the five marks of mission<sup>1</sup>;
- b) To provide pathways for more people to come to Christian faith, reflected in the number of baptisms and confirmations, including teenagers.
- c) To provide and promote nurture courses for enquirers and those new to faith;
- d) To promote small group participation as the norm for mutual pastoral care, Bible study, growth in faith, and outreach;
- e) To encourage and enable people to express their Christian faith confidently outside church;
- f) To promote the prayer life of the church and individuals to underpin all the above.

## Goal 4: Building leadership pathways

*“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others”. 2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT)*

- a) To share with the Diocese in identifying, discerning, recruiting, training and continuously developing lay and ordained leaders, from informal exploration to accreditation.
- b) To take responsibility for your own vocational development, and to encourage others to do so, making use of diverse opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers. To respond to human need by loving service. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

- c) To develop and promote the leadership potential of people of all ages.

#### Goal 5: Growing young people as Christians

*“Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and all the people”.*  
*Luke 2:52(NLT)*

- a) To create a welcoming, enriching and safe worshipping community for children and young people.
- b) To provide a supportive context for them to mature in Christian faith and to live out that faith in practice.
- c) To provide opportunities for every child in the schools in the parish to encounter Christ and the Christian faith in a way which enhances their lives.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### EXPERIENCE

- a) Ordained in the Church of England for at least three years.
- b) Satisfactorily completed Initial Ministerial Education 1-7.
- c) Relevant experience of typical range of duties of priest in Church of England parish ministry.
- d) Relevant experience of working outside or beyond the Church before or since ordination.
- e) Proven track record of demonstrating the skills and abilities listed below.

### FAITH

- a) Confident in their own faith and secure in their identity as a Christian leader.
- b) Able to access appropriate resources to sustain and refresh their own faith and spiritual life.
- c) Practicing good self-care (spiritually, emotionally, socially, mentally and physically) so as to stay fresh and be a positive role-model for others.
- d) Resilient to face the challenges of ministry.
- e) Committed to praying for the church, alone and with others, to discern what God is saying and doing.

### PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- a) Able to live in and work from the accommodation provided with the post, subject to any reasonable adaptations required for special needs.
- b) Able to use own transport or workable alternative for the duties of the post.
- c) Able to confirm that he/she is living in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy.

### LEADERSHIP

- a) Committed to and skilled in delivering leadership which empowers others and enables the ministries of others to thrive.
- b) Effective in creating, communicating and delivering inspiring vision in collaboration with members of the congregation, and in developing appropriate strategy, attainable objectives and clear action steps to achieve it in reliance on God in prayer.
- c) Skilled at managing change.
- d) Able to apply situational leadership to a variety of contexts.
- e) Able to handle conflict calmly, creatively and effectively to promote reconciliation and improved collaboration.

- f) Committed to personal ministerial development and keeping abreast of appropriate ministerial education.

## GROWTH

- a) Committed to and skilled in delivering numerical church growth, using the insights of LYCiG and other appropriate material.
- b) Able to give pastoral care to others in such a way as to promote their spiritual and emotional growth as active ministers and interdependent members of the Body of Christ.
- c) Able to support others to minister as Christians through their work in paid employment, voluntary work, family and neighbourhood.
- d) Skilled at developing a culture of invitation and welcome in the church.

## EVERY-MEMBER MINISTRY

- a) Committed to and skilled in enabling the ministries of every member of the church to grow;
- b) Keen to involve a wide variety of people in carrying out the worship, fellowship and outreach of the church.
- c) Skilled in delegating and sharing responsibilities.
- d) Able to offer effective supervision and feedback to those undertaking roles in ministry.
- e) Enthusiastic and effective in working with and through teams.
- f) Able to promote mutual pastoral care between members.
- g) Able to enjoy the flourishing of the ministries of others.

## TEACHING

- a) Personally committed to preaching and teaching the doctrine of the Church of England.
- b) Skilled in preaching which is inspiring, challenging and engaging to hearers.
- c) Able to teach the Christian faith and to expound and apply Scripture in a wide variety of contexts.
- d) Familiar with and able to use well a wide range of communication techniques.
- e) Able to promote the teaching of the faith through small groups and individual study.

## WORSHIP

- a) Skilled at leading liturgy that is both glorifying to God and edifying to people.
- b) Able to collaborate effectively with other lay and clergy leaders and with musicians and others who contribute to liturgy.
- c) Demonstrating practical knowledge of the variety of forms of worship which are authorised or allowed by Canon.
- d) Able to identify, devise and implement patterns of worship that will be appropriate for a wide variety of people, including all ages, and those not yet familiar with Christian faith.

## PRACTICAL

- a) Able to lead the parish's stewardship of time, money and energy by example and teaching.
- b) Able to oversee the parish's responsibilities for buildings and finances.
- c) Computer-literate and adept at using appropriate IT.
- d) Able to communicate effectively, including by email, and to respond promptly and efficiently to communication.
- e) Competent at personal and parochial administration.
- f) Skilled at prioritising and managing workload.

## KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

- The Bishop of Leeds
- The Bishop of Kirkstall (with responsibility for the Leeds Episcopal Area)
- The Archdeacon of Leeds
- The Area Dean and Lay Chair
- The Deanery Synods and Clergy Chapters of Leeds
- The Diocesan Office team
- The Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team
- Clergy and lay colleagues
- Churchwardens
- The Parochial Church Council
- Ecumenical partners
- Local community partners including schools.

Role Description and Person Specification signed off by the Ven. Paul Ayers, Archdeacon of Leeds

May 2025