

## *Role Description*

### **Vicar – St John and St Paul Widnes**

<b>Signed off by:</b>	Archdeacon of St Helens and Warrington
<b>Date:</b>	June 2026
<b>Role title:</b>	Vicar
<b>Name of benefice:</b>	St John and St Paul, Widnes
<b>Deanery:</b>	Widnes
<b>Archdeaconry:</b>	St Helens and Warrington

### *The Context*

Transform Widnes is the parish of St John's and St Paul's, formed as one parish with a shared vision. It is a welcoming, vibrant and missional church family, seeking to lead people into the transforming love of Jesus and to serve the town of Widnes in word, worship, pastoral care and practical action.

The parish has grown and developed significantly through the investment received through Transform Northwest. It is a charismatic evangelical church, Bible-centred and committed to clear teaching, authentic worship, prayer, discipleship and living out faith in everyday life.

There are two church sites, each with a distinctive place in the life of the town and parish. St Paul's is in Victoria Square, close to the Town Hall and public buildings, and has been designated as Halton's Civic Church. It is a large traditional building, reordered to provide flexible worship and community space, with a hall used for church and community activities, including the Long Loaf community meal. St John's is in the Appleton area, opposite Victoria Park, with a flexible worship space and a well-used church hall. It is home to St John's Pre-School, a monthly Sunday evening worship service, midweek communion and Youth by the Park.

The church has a significant lay ministry base. There is a part-time administrator, recent grant funding for a volunteer manager, two licensed lay ministers, committed churchwardens, a number of lay people involved in leading and preaching, and around 75 members serving in ministry teams and community outreach. There are currently nine Connect Groups, including a Youth Connect group.

Widnes is a resilient riverside town with a strong community spirit, an industrial heritage, good links to Liverpool and Manchester, and a population of around 62,400. Along with Runcorn it forms the borough of Halton, which faces significant social challenges, including substantial levels of deprivation. Transform Widnes has a heart for the whole town and longs to see lives and communities changed by the love of Jesus.

This is a full-time stipendiary appointment. A vicarage is provided next to St John's, close to local schools and within easy reach of the wider parish.

### *The Leadership role:*

As a leader in the Diocese of Liverpool, as well as the local tasks you need to do in your context, the Bishops and senior clergy of our diocese expect you to:-

- constantly advocate diocesan strategy
- sign people up to the Rule of Life (10,000 disciples)
- nurture existing congregational leaders (1,000 leaders)
- identify and release new leaders (1,000 leaders)
- identify and commission teams to plant new congregations/worshipping communities (100 congregations)
- build and lead a leadership team to shape and implement local missional strategy
- create a positive culture of accountability
- establish connections between worshipping communities
- attend to financial health of your worshipping communities.

## ***The Priorities:***

*What are the top four or five things which the new clergy person will need to do to fulfil the leadership role articulated above.*

- Lead Transform Widnes into its next season of growth and mission, keeping the church rooted in prayer, Scripture, worship and openness to the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Build up the parish as one church family across St John's and St Paul's, strengthening shared vision, fellowship, pastoral care and confidence in the church's common calling.
- Develop and embed a culture of "every person ministry", identifying, encouraging, equipping and releasing lay leaders and volunteers to serve according to their God-given gifts.
- Teach and proclaim the Christian faith clearly and confidently, helping people of all ages grow as disciples of Jesus and creating space for honest questions, deeper faith and life in the Spirit.
- Strengthen the church's outward-facing mission in Widnes, with particular attention to children, young people, families and young adults, while ensuring that every generation feels included, valued and drawn into the life of the church.

## ***Other Key Responsibilities:***

*What are the other required key tasks that the new clergy person will need to do to support the priorities articulated above.*

- embody a life shaped by regular prayer and study of Scripture
- identify, develop and lead existing and new lay leadership
- support and build on ecumenical and civic links
- engage with financial health and viability

*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.*