

Role Description: Benefice of Weetslade House for Duty

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: Priest in Charge (House for Duty) of Weetslade
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Weetslade
- 2.3 Patronage: The Bishop of Newcastle
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Bedlington; Northumberland
- 2.5 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Northumberland

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 Seeking, Sharing, Sending 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 Seeking, Sharing, Sending. 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 parish of Weetslade;
- 3.7 To nurture the congregations, providing opportunities for them to continue to deepen their faith and serve their communities, identifying priorities through mission action planning;
- 3.8 To engage in the communities of Dudley and Burradon, their various population groups and organisations, building connections and increasing the presence and impact of the church;
- 3.9 To strengthen relationships between the congregations and local schools;
- 3.10 To lead the congregations into creative and active partnership with the deanery in a time of change. To be open to closer cooperation and the sharing of wider responsibilities in mission with other neighbouring parishes and communities;
- 3.11 To ensure that you continue to access new resources for ministry and that personal spiritual nurture and refreshment is given priority in your ministry.

4 Key contacts and relationships

4.1 Generic and Specific

- a. The Bishop of Newcastle and the Archdeacon of Northumberland;
- b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;
- d. Staff and pupils of Burradon and Fordley primary schools

4.2 Supportive

- a. The Area Dean, Lay Chair and colleagues in the Bedlington Deanery
- b. Pastoral Supervisor
- c. Spiritual Director.

5. Role Context

Dudley and Burradon are relatively small and discrete settlements between the new towns of Killingworth and Cramlington. Originally created to house those working in mining and local industries supporting the mines there, the communities have sometimes struggled to find a new sense of purpose since the end of these industries. However, with the beautiful Northumberland coastline close by and good transport links to Newcastle City Centre as well as the local amenities in Killingworth and Cramlington it is well-placed to be part of the regeneration of this area. There is a well-appointed Vicarage with a garden, within walking distance of Church of the Good Shepherd.

Covid and an extended period of sick leave of the previous Incumbent, left the congregations feeling fragile. They have proved remarkably resilient and cheerful throughout an extended vacancy and remain well-integrated and well-thought-of within their local communities, maintaining good relationships with the two local Primary schools. Both churches are valued by local people but this has never resulted in regular attendance by very large numbers on a Sunday. The communities do look to the churches in times of celebration, remembrance and crisis.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	One
Churches and listing	St Paul, Dudley, unlisted Good Shepherd, Burradon, unlisted
Parsonage	Detached brick house
Other buildings	Church hall at Dudley
Churchwardens	One
Ministers (including local ministry)	One Reader
Population	8,548
Usual Sunday Attendance	Dudley 12 Burradon 14
Parish Share (2025)	£10,200
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Traditional and vestments worn, but relaxed, unfussy, welcoming and with good congregational participation.
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Links with local schools Community events at the churches Members of the congregation involved with the Burradon Community Forum.
Business element	Income from hall users
Ecumenical links	Contact with local Roman Catholic church

7 Review

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