Role Description

Diocese of Liverpool

Signed off by: Archdeacon Pete Spiers
Date: November 2026
Role title: Team Vicar Wigan (Discipleship lead)
Deanery: Wigan
Archdeaconry: St Helen's and Warrington

The Leadership role:

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 safeguarding, financial and other governance disciplines are followed.

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Priorities:

Be the chief partner and associate of the Hub Leader of the parishes, and a senior member of the Hub Leadership Team which includes a team vicar, lay leaders and other ministers.

Lead on embedding an effective culture of disciple-making and pioneering mission in the local church communities.

Provide close support to the local church leadership teams, enabling them to grow in confidence in discerning and actioning mission opportunities with a focus on forming authentic disciples of Christ.

Be personally involved in at least one fresh mission/ discipling project, demonstrating skills and leading by example.

Get involved in the life of the church and local communities, leading weekly worship, being present at important celebrations and conducting some occasional offices.

As part of the wider Church Wigan ministry leadership team, advise the Rector of Church Wigan and colleagues in other parishes on developing mission and discipleship across Wigan.

Play an active part in the Clergy/Ministry Team and share in the work of mission and ministry across the parish

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.

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