

## **Role Description: Benefices of Byker St Mark & Walkergate St Oswald and Byker St Martin**

### **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: Vicar of Byker St Mark & Walkergate St Oswald, Priest in Charge of Byker St Martin and Staff Member of Mission Initiative North East.
- 2.2 Name of benefices: Byker St Mark & Walkergate St Oswald; Byker St Martin
- 2.3 Patronage: The Bishop of Newcastle and the Church Trust Fund Trust
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Newcastle East; 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 an openness to the promptings of God's love, a generosity of spirit, and an engagement with the people and situations you serve.
- 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 in this new season in the life of the diocese with the arrival of our new diocesan Bishop. This will include planning for mission and ministry through collaborative parish conversations and working with colleagues across the Deanery as part of the Deanery Planning process as well as 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, seeking the truth of God's Kingdom together, sharing our faith as we walk with Jesus in his suffering love and being sent to serve our neighbour for the salvation of all people and the whole of God's creation.

## **Role Purpose – Generic and Specific**

- 3.6 To take responsibility for pastoral care, occasional offices and leading of regular public worship in the parishes of Byker St Mark & Walkergate St Oswald and Byker St Martin
- 3.7 To work with the congregations to grow and develop an active ministry team across the parishes, particularly in the areas of leading worship and pastoral care. Recognise the talents and skills of lay people, and where appropriate, make links into the diocesan authorised lay ministry initiative.
- 3.8 To engage creatively with the communities of both parishes and to seek out new missional opportunities. Explore with St Oswald's the possibility of creative partnership with Mission Initiative Newcastle East to resource mission and ministry across the locality.
- 3.9 To work with the congregations to assess the current role of the church and church buildings in the community and enable the development of its vision and strategy for growth.
- 3.10 To encourage and develop existing work with children and young people in the churches and build on engagement with local schools across both parishes to work towards our diocesan aim of growing younger.
- 3.11 To enable local evangelism across the congregations of MINE where possible along with exploring the possibilities of creating new worshipping communities.
- 3.12 To encourage and enable the congregations in the principles of stewardship and giving as part of discipleship.
- 3.13 To lead the parish and church community into creative and active partnership with the deanery in a time of change, and to be open to closer cooperation with neighbouring parishes and communities than previously expected and the sharing of wider responsibilities in mission. Active engagement with Deanery Chapter, Synod and the Deanery Development Group is expected.
- 3.14 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**

- a. The Bishop of Newcastle and the Archdeacon of Northumberland
- b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;

### **4.2 Specific**

- a. Members of St Martin's Partnership
- b. MINE colleagues and the MINE Council
- c. Head teachers of local schools

### **4.3 Supportive**

- a. The Archdeacon of Northumberland
- b. The Area Dean, Lay Chair and colleagues in the Newcastle East Deanery
- c. Work consultant and/or spiritual director.

## 5 Role Context

Byker and Walker are both communities with a strong sense of identity and a proud industrial heritage. Whilst there are some real issues with deprivation in parts, there are vibrant and culturally diverse cultures and communities in the area. There is a keen desire amongst those who live in this area of the city to celebrate the positives of life here and a willingness to work together with any and all who share a vision for developing the community.

St Martin's has a small but lively and joyful congregation who offer a warm welcome to all. They have coped well with a long vacancy and continue to be a place of meeting through St Martin's partnership for a wide variety of community groups.

St Oswald's has faced some real challenges and transitions since the retirement of their long-serving Vicar in 2021, but they are keen now to grow the church and are focused on mission through key work with weekly toddler group and the local primary school.

## 6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Two
Churches and listing	St Oswald, Walkergate, unlisted St Martin, Byker, unlisted
Parsonage	St Oswald's Vicarage is a 1930s detached house adjacent to the church
Other buildings	The church at St Martin's is part of the St Martin's Centre.
Churchwardens	Two in each parish
Ministers (including local ministry)	One Reader at St Martin's. Lay people are involved in worship and pastoral work. A local ministry group was formed in 2001. Active Lay people at St Oswald's who help with leading worship and are engaged with outreach projects.
Population	Walkergate: 7,219 St Martin Byker: 4,921
Usual Sunday Attendance	Walkergate: 20-25 St Martin Byker: 25 adults 7-10 children
Parish Share offered (2022)	Walkergate: £23,440, paid in full St Martin Byker: £5,000, paid in full
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Walkergate: evangelical St Martin Byker: family orientated whilst retaining a sense of tradition
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Good relationships with local schools, including strong links with Walkergate Community school, Weekly Toddler Group at St Oswald's Involvement with local residential homes

	St Martin's is a key member of the St Martin's Centre partnership, which has an onsite nursery and runs a number of community projects. 'Money Advice' service for the community Support given to local, national and international charities.
Business element	St Martin's Centre Partnership
Ecumenical links	Some joint groups and events

## 7 Review

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