# Role Description

**Role title:** **Associate Priest, St Bride's Liverpool and Christ Church Toxteth Park (Team Vicar Designate, Hope Parish Liverpool)**
**Deanery:** **Toxteth & Wavertree**
**Signed off by:** **Archdeacon of Liverpool**
**Date:** **02/11/26**

## The Context

St Bride's and Christ Church are both located in the popular and vibrant area to the immediate south of Liverpool City Centre, from the buzzing café culture of Lark Lane to the Georgian Quarter.
St Bride's provides a home for those who are theologically progressive, with creative worship and a commitment to questioning and discussion. St Bride's also hosts the original Open Table congregation, led by LML Warren Bohan. Christ Church is proud to be the first Gold Eco-Church in the diocese. Worship at Christ Church is a mix of the traditional and the contemporary. Both churches share a commitment to inclusion expressed in the Inclusive Church statement, to social justice, and to the arts.

This full-time role will initially primarily be based at St Bride's church, with a transition over the next two years to taking pastoral responsibility for both St Bride's and Christ Church Toxteth park. (There is currently a part-time vicar Christ Church, and the successful applicant will be integrated over the next 2.5 years to take on the role following the retirement of the present incumbent, subject to the pastoral reorganisation to Hope Parish going ahead). Both St Brides and Christ Church are working towards becoming part of Hope Parish Liverpool, and this role will be subject to changes during this time. As this pastoral reorganisation is still under consultation, this role is currently offered on a 3 year interim basis. The aspiration is that the appointee would later be appointed as a Team Vicar within the reorganised Hope Parish, subject to the pastoral reorganisation taking place as planned, and subject to the approval of the then-constituted Patronage Board. The post will be accountable to the team rector of St Luke in the City in the first instance, who is also Team Rector Designate for Hope Parish Liverpool.

### *The Priorities:*

- To be the named priest at St Brides church, with oversight of all worship activities;
- To lead on the vision for St Brides as part of Hope Parish Liverpool;
- To be the priest in charge of St Brides Open Table, and to work with the current lay leadership; meeting regularly with the team and being a pastoral presence at the bimonthly services;
- To continue the drive to make both churches sustainable and develop new sources of income;
- To minister alongside the current team vicar at Christ Church until his retirement, working towards a smooth transition into the role at Christ Church following the retirement in spring 29;
- To build relationships with church leaders and congregation members, (in particular, local missional leaders, reader, current PCC and patrons);
- To work with lay and ordained colleagues to identify opportunities for and launch new midweek worshipping communities.

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## *The Leadership role in Liverpool Diocese:*

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 best practice in safeguarding is promoted, and that all financial and other governance disciplines are followed in an exemplary fashion.

*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.*

## *Stipend and housing allowance*

This is a full time stipendiary role on Common Tenure terms & conditions. It is initially offered on a three year interim basis. Whilst there is a hope that the postholder would subsequently be appointed to the role of Team Vicar, any future appointment would be subject to the Patronage Board's appointment.

Housing will be provided for the better performance of your duties, free of council tax and water charges.
The house identified for this role is 7 Crossley Drive. L15 8AJ.
You can view a video walk-through of this property: 7 Crossley Drive, Liverpool, L15 8AJ