

Role Description – Eccleston Team Vicar



Signed off by: Archdeacon of St Helens & Warrington
Date: September 2025
Role title: Team Vicar, Eccleston Team and Associate Priest,
St Mark's North Road
Deanery: St Helens
Archdeaconry: St Helens & 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.
10. Collaborate with others to develop a flourishing children and youth ministry.

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The Context

The Eccleston team ministry is a team of three parishes on the north-western side of the town of St Helens, with a range of different housing and socio-economic circumstances, but on average slightly more affluent than the average for the borough. There are three well-maintained parish church buildings with three worshipping communities, plus a chapel of ease (previously also a parish church) with a significant community ministry.

The three parishes are all broadly evangelical, but with different characters and senses of identity. The current leadership is working to bring the churches and the ministry team to work more collaboratively together across the benefice.

St Mark's North Road is a separate benefice closer to the centre of the town of St Helens, previously in a different team ministry and will be sharing ministry provision with the Eccleston team for the first time. St Mark's is also broadly evangelical in character, with a strong local team and ministry on two sites, at the church and in the Gamble hall.

It is envisaged that that the four parishes will act more and more as if they were one team ministry, and in the future there may be proposals for St Mark's to become formally part of the team ministry.

There is a vacancy for a Team Rector of the Eccleston Team who will also be appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St Mark's, with overall responsibility across the four parishes. The post holder appointed as Team Vicar in the Eccleston team and Associate Priest of St Mark's will work with the Team Rector to lead mission and ministry across all four parishes. Within this, each clergy person will provide focal ministry to two of the four congregations, and it is likely that this post-holder will be the focal minister for St John's and St Luke's.

This is a full-time stipendiary appointment and a four-bedroom vicarage is provided next to St John's Ravenhead on Crossley Road WA10 3ND.

The Priorities:

- Together with a new Team Rector, shape the team (including St Mark's North Road) and build them up in fellowship, discipleship and mission
- In consultation with the new team rector and the communities, take responsibility for focal ministry in two of the congregations
- As the team discerns together, lead developing and new ministries according to your strengths and skills
- teach and proclaim the Christian faith yourself in our communities
- encourage and embed a culture of serious discipleship and evangelism

This Role Description will be reviewed biennially 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.