

Role Description – Wigan East



Signed off by: Archdeacon of St Helens & Warrington
Date: 14/3/25
Role title: Evangelism Lead, Church Wigan & Team Vicar, Wigan Team Ministry
Deanery: Wigan
Archdeaconry: Wigan & West Lancashire

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.

The Context

Wigan East – commonly referred to as Chapelfields – is the largest of the parish hubs making up Church Wigan, with a population of 38,000. It is growing, with the most sustained housing growth in the Borough of Wigan. Platt Bridge and Hindley are the two focal town centres, but there are seven distinct communities – estates, towns and villages – each with a local sense of identity, and some lying at the very edge of the borough and diocese.

Alongside the seven churches that serve the communities we have seven closely-linked church primary schools, as well as good relationships with non-church primary schools and Outwood Academy Hindley. The Next Gen worshipping community 'Come+See' is based in the Hub. With all the diversity here - a town centre church, estate ministry, prison, various halls and a peace garden offering flexibility for creative outreach to name but a few - there's lots of opportunities for mission and evangelism.

Church Wigan was established in January 2020, bringing the 29 former parishes, with 2,200 members and 50+ buildings, into a single team ministry with seven parishes in a ground-breaking new 'hub' structure. However, more significant than the structural shift is the emerging culture of discipleship, mission and pioneering new worshipping communities. Within this exciting missional culture the post-holder will have responsibility for keeping the team's focus on evangelism and developing skills and confidence in this area.

Priorities as Evangelism Lead:

- Working with the Team Rector and team to lead the development of a culture of evangelism throughout Church Wigan.
- Working with hubs and Wigan Next Gen Team to help them grow in evangelism and developing strategies for proclaiming the gospel in all their activities.
- Modelling evangelism and personally leading evangelistic events and activities such as Alpha.
- Mentoring new evangelists.

Priorities in the Parish:

- Rooted in Chapelfields, working closely with the Hub Leader, clergy colleagues and HLT to embed the new culture of missional discipleship and unity.
- Offer priestly ministry to congregations and parishioners, including leading worship, officiating at occasional offices and providing good pastoral care.
- As the parish moves towards focal ministry, supporting two worshipping communities more closely and being first point of call for pastoral issues.

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.