

Signed off by: Archdeacon of Liverpool
Date: 24/03/2025
Deanery: Toxteth & Wavertree
Role title: Interim Priest in Charge of Toxteth St Bede with St Clement & St Bridget with St Thomas
Deanery: Toxteth and Wavertree
Archdeaconry: Liverpool

The Context:

This post combines the roles of Priest in Charge of two distinct, but adjacent, parishes. Together they serve 3 church buildings (St Bridget's, St Bede's and St Clements), and 2 congregations (St Bede & St Clements are a single congregation, and are currently exploring alternative futures for one of the buildings). The churches lie within a densely populated, diverse and popular area of the city, just a mile or so from the city centre, either side of the vibrant multi-cultural axis of Lodge Lane. The parishes include several schools, community facilities, and a relatively high percentage of those of other faiths, and are undergoing quite rapid demographic changes.

The post is currently offered as a 3 year interim role, pending pastoral reorganisation. This is because both parishes, with others in the Deanery, are currently engaged in the Fit for Mission process, exploring becoming a Single Larger Parish with several team clergy and central support services. It is envisaged that the post holder might ultimately be named as a future Team Vicar within the scheme; these two churches would not necessarily be held together in a future pattern of ministry, so discerning the shape of any future post is part of the interim nature of this role.

This post requires a pastorally wise and strategic priest who can hold two expressions of the evangelical tradition together in creative tension, and guide the parishes through this period of change. Both parishes enjoy worship in the low church, gently liturgical, small 'e' evangelical tradition, and both welcome the ministry of both women and men (a female SSM is in post at St Bridget & St Thomas). Whilst both also contain a range of views on the current 'hot potato' issue of PLF, the PCC of St Bede & St Clement are more aligned with Inclusive Church, whilst the PCC of St Bridget & St Thomas are more aligned with the Evangelical Alliance. It will be important for the post holder to be able to work sensitively and wisely across both churches, and with lay and ordained colleagues who hold a range of views.

We are looking for a person who encourages and inspires lay leadership, who can discern vision, and who will love these local communities and help the churches grow in numbers, in spiritual depth, and in working for justice.

The Priorities:

- Developing vision for deeper links with the local community
- Leading the churches into sustainable growth, maintaining a sensitivity to the diverse communities in which they are set
- Embracing and facilitating change in this interim role, including helping the congregations to shape the new future shape of ministry in the Deanery through Fit for Mission,
- Helping the PCCs to develop sustainable and financially viable plans for their buildings, in collaboration with the FfM Right Buildings Team
- Encouraging children's ministry in both congregations
- Encourage the deepening of discipleship and leadership development of all kinds

The Leadership Role in the Diocese of Liverpool :

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

This includes a focus on seeking opportunities to become a younger and more diverse Church.

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 regular one to one and group meetings with colleagues and through the Ministerial Development Review process) 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 recognise 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. Fulfil other requirements of clergy of the Church of England in the Ordinal, Canons and elsewhere, and any conditions of your license and offer letter.

Housing

The Team Vicar will be provided with housing for the better performance of their duties. This will be discussed further with candidates as there are two vicarages which could be made available, and these are currently being assessed by the housing team.

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.