

Role Description: Associate Missioner in the benefices of Longhirst St John the Evangelist; Cresswell & Lynemouth; Ulgham; Widdrington; Bolam with Whalton & Hartburn with Meldon ; Netherwitton; Mitford & Hebron; and Longhorsley

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: Associate Missioner

2.2 Name of benefices: Longhirst; Cresswell & Lynemouth; Ulgham; Widdrington; Bolam with Whalton & Hartburn with Meldon ; Netherwitton; Mitford & Hebron; and Longhorsley

2.3 Deanery and archdeaconry: Morpeth, Lindisfarne

2.4 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne

3 Role purpose: General

- 3.1 To promote the development of lay ministry, community engagement, engaging those exploring faith, strengthening links between the parishes, developing pathways between social outreach and faith exploration, working alongside the incumbents in attending to the cure of souls of the whole parishes.
- 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 a generosity of spirit, an engagement with the people and situations you serve, and an openness to the promptings of God's love.
- 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 development of Mission Action Plans. A number of supports are available to you through the provision of work consultants and spiritual directors, 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, as together we seek the Kingdom, share the faith, search for truth, serve our neighbour and follow Jesus in his suffering love for the salvation of all people.

Role Purpose – Generic and Specific

3.6 To enable the PCCs to realise their ambition for mission and growth, supporting the parishes in contributing to the diocesan vision of Seeking, Sharing, Sending, as they engage outwardly in mission and seek to enable more and different people to experience life to the full.

3.7 To work with the incumbents, PCCs and local communities to build on existing missional opportunities already identified across the parishes, and to discern and develop new opportunities for outreach, engagement and evangelism.

3.8 To be an engaged and pro-active presence within local communities, embracing local concerns and working collaboratively with others to support the flourishing of community life.

3.9 To develop pathways between community engagement and deeper participation in the life of the Church, including through pastoral ministry, occasional offices, and regular public worship.

3.10 To share in leading regular worship across the benefices and to contribute to the sacramental and pastoral life of the parish churches.

3.11 To work with the incumbents and PCCs to discern, enable and release lay ministry within the parishes, encouraging collaboration and the development of gifts across the whole people of God.

3.12 To give particular attention to the quality and missional potential of occasional offices, festivals and key moments of contact, strengthening connections between these and the ongoing life of the Church.

3.13 To work with the parish churches in exploring and developing ministry with children, young people and families, building sustainable and meaningful connections with worshipping communities.

3.14 To collaborate with clergy and lay leaders across the deanery through participation in Chapter and Deanery Synod, contributing to shared vision and strategy.

3.15 To be responsible for your own ministerial and spiritual development, ensuring appropriate time is set aside for prayer, reflection and ongoing formation.

Key contacts and relationships

4.1 Generic

- a. The Bishops of Newcastle and Berwick; and the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne;
- b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;

- d. The Incumbent priests of the benefices involved;
- e. The Diocesan Lay Ministry Development Officer;
- f. The Diocesan Continuing Ministerial Formation Officer;
- g. The Diocesan Children and Youth Team.

4.2 Specific

- a. Retired Clergy, Readers, ALMs Anna Chaplains
- b. Church members involved in mission and outreach in the parishes
- c. Headteachers, staff and pupils at the local C of E and community schools
- d. Those involved in eco-church and other environmental projects
- e. Those running local pubs, cafes and restaurants
- f. Community associations and parish councils

4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne
- b. The Area Dean; Lay Chair, incumbent clergy colleagues and colleagues in the Morpeth Deanery
- c. Work consultant or spiritual director.

5. Role Context

For a mission minded priest who loves people, loves God and longs to see more and different people experience life in all its fullness, this new post represents a wonderful opportunity. You will join a vibrant and growing team who seek to make a significant impact for God's Kingdom in this beautiful part of Northumberland. The parishes each have their own unique character and identity. They all host regular worship which you will participate in leading. They represent a rich diversity of context, from coastal to post industrial to deep rural and they share a passion for supporting community life and sharing the Gospel of Christ.

Growing numbers of laity are involved alongside the priests in the many outreach activities. Whilst there are already many missional initiatives up and running, capacity issues among the existing clergy is limiting opportunities to fully develop these. The two incumbent priests and their leadership teams have vision and energy for building on existing initiatives and are also open to discerning where God is doing brand new things as a new colleague comes alongside them adding capacity.

The number of parishes is perhaps daunting, but you will draw on the significant gifts, skills and resources of the team and its admin support.

6 Summary of benefices as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	11
Churches and listing	St John the Evangelist, Longhirst, grade II St Bartholomew, Cresswell, grade II St John the Baptist, Ulgham, grade II Holy Trinity, Widdrington, grade I

	<p>St Andrew, Bolam, grade I St Andrew, Hartburn, grade I St John the Baptist, Meldon, grade I St Mary Magdalene, Whalton, grade I St Giles, Netherwitton, grade II* St Mary Magdalene, Mitford, grade I St Cuthbert, Hebron, grade II St Helen, Longhorsley , grade II</p>
Housing provided	Vicarage at Pegswood
Other buildings	Stable Room at Mitford
Churchwardens	Two in each parish (with the exception of Widdrington, Cresswell and Longhirst which have one each)
Ministers (including local ministry)	<p>2 Incumbent clergy 8 Readers and Authorised Lay Ministers 3 retired clergy 1 priest with PTO</p>
Population (2021 census)	<p>Longhirst 433 Cresswell & Lynemouth 4175 Ulgham 3076 Widdrington 177 Bolam 366 Hartburn w Meldon 408 Whalton 476 Netherwitton 176 Mitford 1405 Hebron 390 Longhorsley 1057</p>
Usual Sunday Attendance	<p>Longhirst 26 Cresswell & Lynemouth 20 Ulgham 18 Widdrington 20 Bolam Hartburn 18 Meldon 14 Whalton 13 Netherwitton 24 Mitford & Hebron 50 Longhorsley</p>
Parish Share offered (2025)	<p>Longhirst £7,560, paid £4,600 Cresswell & Lynemouth £11,000 Ulgham £15,000 Widdrington £15,381 Bolam £6,300 Hartburn w Meldon Whalton £8,000, paid £3,000 Netherwitton £10,932 Mitford & Hebron £42,863 Longhorsley £8,149</p>

Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests?	No
Church tradition	Varied traditions across the parishes, shaped by local context. Opening to new and merging ways of being church.
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Links with schools, especially church schools St Cuthbert, Hebron also functions as a village hall Concerts and music festivals at Hartburn Hartburn Community Project Connection with the Roost at Netherwitton Ministry to visitors Involvement of church members in local community life Café Church, Messy Church Eco church resources for outdoor worship
Business element	St Cuthbert, Hebron is shared with Hebron Community Association (HCA). Stable Room available for private hire.
Ecumenical links	Wansbeck Valley Foodbank is an ecumenical project

7 Review

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