

Role Description: Benefice of Chatton with Chillingham, Eglington and South Charlton and Ingram

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: Vicar (0.5FTE) of Chatton with Chillingham, Eglington and South Charlton and Ingram
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Chatton with Chillingham, Eglington and South Charlton and Ingram, often known locally as 'The Breamish and Till Benefice'.
- 2.3 Patronage: Alternately by the Bishop of Newcastle and the Duke of Northumberland acting jointly, who shall have the first turn, and His Majesty in right of His Crown exercisable by the Lord Chancellor on His behalf.
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Bamburgh & Glendale; Lindisfarne
- 2.5 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne

3 Role purpose: General

- 3.1 To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls.
- 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 Diocesan strategy Seeking, Sharing, Sending. This will include collaborative parish conversations and planning for mission and ministry as well as working with colleagues across the Deanery and more widely in the life of the Diocese. A number of supports are available to you through the provision of work consultants, spiritual directors and Continuing Ministerial Formation programs, 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 take responsibility for pastoral care, occasional offices and leading of regular public worship in the benefice of Chatton with Chillingham, Eglington and South Charlton and Ingram.

3.7 To work with the PCCs and key laity to develop a collaborative pattern for ministry across the whole benefice and to encourage and nurture the ministry of lay people discerning gifts and signposting to training and support as appropriate.

3.8 To work with the laity across the benefice so that the gifts and skills of all develop, new vocations to a variety of ministries emerge, and that the partnership between lay and ordained deepens.

3.9 To work collaboratively with the incumbents of the other benefices in the Deanery of Bamburgh Glendale and take an active interest in the work of the Deanery Development Group and the Deanery Planning, mutually discerning where collaboration across the benefices may be beneficial, helping to nurture possible joint ventures and discerning where a cluster approach might be appropriate.

3.10 To be a visible and involved presence in the settlements of the benefice and to take an active interest in rural matters as they impact on local communities, recognising and adapting to the different contexts of the four parishes.

3.11 To work pro-actively in Bamburgh and Glendale Deanery Chapter and Synod, maximising the positive impact of formal and informal links with stipendiary, self-supporting and active retired clergy.

3.12 With the PCCs, to produce action plans for the benefice to enable the growth of the local church in numbers, spiritual depth and missional engagement.

3.13 To create opportunities for parishioners to explore the scriptures in small groups and to develop in their Christian knowledge and practical discipleship.

3.14 To stimulate the PCCs to develop the use of their buildings so that they better serve the needs of their local communities.

3.15 To continually access fresh resources for ministry, to engage in the diocesan programme for Continuing Ministerial Development and to take time to develop personal spirituality.

Key contacts and relationships

4.1 Generic

- a. The Bishop and Archdeacon of Lindisfarne;
- b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod and Deanery Development Group;

4.2 Specific

- a. Headteacher, staff and pupils of Branton Community School
- b. Local ecumenical partners
- c. Village Hall committees in Eglingham and South Charlton
- d. Local Parish Councils
- e. Eglingham Community Association
- f. local tourist attractions such as Northumberland National Park, Chillingham Castle, Chillingham Wild Cattle, St Cuthbert's Way.
- g. the agricultural community.
- h. Local businesses such as pubs and B&Bs
- i. Middlemoor Wind Farm

4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne
- b. The Area Dean. Lay Chair and colleagues in the Bamburgh & Glendale Deanery
- c. Work consultant or spiritual director, pastoral supervisor.

5. Role Context

The Breamish and Till Valleys rank highly among the iconic areas of Northumberland and contains some of the most stunning landscapes in the country. The two nearest cities are Edinburgh and Newcastle, each many miles from the benefice. Not simply 'rural', this benefice is often characterised as 'deep' rural and calls for a priest with a deep love of rural life and people.

The chapter and synod of Bamburgh and Glendale Deanery are close knit and very mutually supportive. They have engaged deeply with the diocesan Deanery Planning Process and punch above their weight in terms of vision and giving.

The benefice is accustoming itself to their new priest working with them four days a week (Sunday plus 3) rather than six.

There are many opportunities for mission and community engagement for someone with a vision for this type of ministry. The populations are small and sparsely spread, yet deeply faithful and hard working, with a real and evident love for church and community and a resilience to weather the changes that have happened in rural life in recent decades. There is a will and determination for church to be at the heart of rural life, with strong engagements with local parish councils, community groups and village halls opening up many opportunities.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Four
Churches and listing	Holy Cross, Chatton, grade II listed St Peter, Chillingham, grade I listed St Maurice, Eglington, grade II* listed St Michael, Ingram, grade II* listed Holy Trinity, Old Bewick, grade I listed St James, South Charlton, grade II listed
Parsonage	Adjacent to church in Eglington, recent build
Other buildings	None
Churchwardens	Two in each parish
Ministers (including local ministry)	No other licensed ministers. Lay people are involved in leading worship.
Population (2021 census)	Chatton with Chillingham 460 Eglington 580 Ingram 147 South Charlton 96
Usual Sunday Attendance	Holy Cross, Chatton 8 St Peter, Chillingham 6 St Maurice, Eglington 13 St Michael, Ingram 11 Holy Trinity, Old Bewick 10 St James, South Charlton 10
Parish Share (2024)	Chatton with Chillingham £8,160 Eglington £9,000 Ingram £3,000 South Charlton £2,000
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Common Worship is used, with some BCP services. Some services are lay led.
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Visitor welcome. Strong links with farming community. Use of church buildings for community events and involvement of church members. Good links with local school. Large numbers attend carol services, Harvest Festival and other special services.
Business element	None
Ecumenical links	None

7 Review

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