

## **Role Description: Benefice of Bedlington, Cambois and Sleekburn**

### **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 of Bedlington, Cambois and Sleekburn
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Bedlington, Cambois and Sleekburn
- 2.3 Patronage: (1) Durham Cathedral Chapter (2) Newcastle Cathedral Chapter
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Bedlington; Northumberland
- 2.5 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Northumberland

### **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 based upon 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 developing Diocesan strategy. 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 parishes of Bedlington, Cambois and Sleekburn.
- 3.7 To care for and encourage the congregations to grow in faith, in numbers and in service to the community through preaching, leading of worship, teaching, and prayer and to lead the parish in the development of its vision and strategy for growth.
- 3.8 To develop and grow the ministry team across the benefice, recognising the talents and skills of lay people, and where appropriate making links into the diocesan authorised lay ministry initiative in worship and pastoral care.
- 3.9 To bring a mission focus to the wide range of contacts and activities which take place in the life of the church and through the congregation, and support those who lead them.
- 3.10 To encourage and develop existing work with children and young people in the church and build on engagement with local schools, particularly Whitley Memorial Church of England Primary and Bedlington Academy.
- 3.11 To continue work on making all the church buildings in the benefice open, accessible and sustainable.
- 3.12 To engage creatively with the different communities across the benefice. To seek out new missional opportunities and discern potential for new worshipping communities.
- 3.13 To encourage and enable the congregation in the principles of stewardship and financial giving as part of discipleship.
- 3.14 To lead the parish and church community into creative and active partnership with the deanery in a time of change and to be open to closer cooperation with neighbouring parishes in mission, particularly Choppington parish. Active engagement with Deanery Chapter, Synod and the Deanery Development Group is expected.
- 3.15 To be pro-active in ensuring that you continue to access new resources for your ministry and that personal spiritual nurture, refreshment and development is given priority.

## **Key contacts and relationships**

### **4.1 Generic**

- a. The Bishop of Newcastle and the Archdeacon of Northumberland;
- b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;

### **4.2 Specific**

- a. The Benefice ministry team;
- b. Head teacher, staff and pupils of Whitley Memorial Church of England Primary School;

c. Members of Bedlingtonshire Churches Together.

#### 4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Northumberland
- b. The Area Dean, Lay Chair and colleagues in the Bedlington Deanery
- c. Work consultant and/or spiritual director.

### 5. Role Context

The benefice covers the whole range of contexts in Bedlingtonshire which is reflected in the diversity across the benefice that offers opportunities and challenges in terms of the history and culture of these places.

The United Benefice has built a sense of shared identity and partnership in the Gospel. This role relies on good team working and there is scope for developing lay vocations, shared ministry and mission.

### 6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Three
Churches and listing	St Cuthbert, Bedlington, grade II* listed St Andrew, Cambois, unlisted St John, Sleekburn, unlisted
Parsonage	Detached 1980s house adjacent to St Cuthbert's
Other buildings	Portakabin used as a church hall at Cambois Small church hall at Sleekburn
Churchwardens	Four at Bedlington One at Cambois Two at Sleekburn
Ministers (including local ministry)	Two Readers Two Readers with PTO Ordinand in training
Population (2021 census)	Bedlington 10,391 Cambois 954 Sleekburn 7,134
Usual Sunday Attendance (2024)	Bedlington 40 Cambois 16 for communion, 9 for morning prayer Sleekburn 16 for communion, 10 for morning prayer
Parish Share (2024)	Bedlington £42,500 Cambois £5,000 Sleekburn £1,200
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	'Middle of the road' Anglican, vestments worn.
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None

Outreach/service to the wider community	Links with local schools Links with uniformed organisations, particularly the Air Cadets Engagement with local community through social events Support from the local foodbank and other charities Visits to local care homes
Business element	Small amount of income from hire of community space at St Cuthbert's. Lettings of the hall at Sleekburn have ceased since the opening of a community centre.
Ecumenical links	Part of Churches Together in Bedlingtonshire Informal contact with Bedlington Hope Church Member of ministry team works at Bedlington Salvation Army

## 7 Review

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