

Role Description: Benefice of Whorlton

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: Priest in Charge (0.5FTE) of Whorlton
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Whorlton
- 2.3 Patronage: The Bishop of Newcastle
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Newcastle West; 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 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 parish of Whorlton St John.
- 3.7 To work with the existing ministry team to grow and develop faith, discipleship and local ministry, recognising the talents and skills of lay people in worship, particularly the welcome the church offers through baptisms, in service and in outreach and where appropriate, making links into the diocesan Authorised Lay Ministry initiative.
- 3.8 To lead the worshipping community in the development and delivery of its mission action plan focusing on hospitality, music and the environment, particularly seeking to engage with the new estates and in partnership with Chapel House parish, to enable new and different people to experience the love of God.
- 3.9 Build on the relationships with local schools, particularly Westerhope primary and work with others to increase contact with children and families, alongside the existing Messy Church.
- 3.10 Engage in community groups and initiatives and develop and increase hall use, discerning potential for new worshipping communities.
- 3.11 To build on pastoral outreach through the pastoral care team and ministry to Whorlton Grange Residential care home.
- 3.12 To encourage and enable the congregation in the principles of stewardship and giving as part of discipleship and to encourage the Church Council budget to reflect the parish's vision.
- 3.13 To lead the parish and church community into creative and active partnership with Newcastle West Deanery, particularly Chapel House parish, in a time of change.
- 3.14 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 Council;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;

4.2 Specific

- a. Local ministry team
- b. Organists and Choir
- c. Church Hall manager
- d. Headteachers, staff and pupils of Westerhope primary school

4.3 Supportive

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

5. Role Context

The parish has undergone rapid change due to extensive house building but there has been little emphasis placed by developers on building community in the estates. This is changing with new shops opening and plans for a new school and there are real opportunities to put the church at the heart of community development here. The challenge is to move from 'dormitory' style living to building a sense of sharing space and building neighbourliness.

St John's is a traditional church building that has importance within the local community, particularly for pastoral offices. It has changed quickly from a semi-rural setting to being surrounded by new housing estates. The congregation have sought to engage with the new estates but have been discouraged by a lack of response to leafleting initiatives etc. The PCC focus on hospitality hopes to address this along with an emphasis on music and the environment. The hall is also a well-used community resource.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	One
Churches and listing	St John, unlisted
Parsonage	Detached house adjacent to the church
Other buildings	Church hall
Churchwardens	Two
Ministers (including local ministry)	One retired priest with PTO
Population (2021 census)	11,985
Usual Sunday Attendance	33
Parish Share (2024)	£31,920
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Middle of the road
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Links with local schools Messy Church Social events in church hall Leaflet drop invitations to new housing developments
Business element	Church hall rentals
Ecumenical links	Good Friday walk of witness with local Methodist church

7 Review

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