

Role Description

Incumbent St Peter's, Much Woolton, Liverpool



Signed off by: Archdeacon of Liverpool
Date: 19th October 2022
Role title: Incumbent
Name of benefice: St Peter's Woolton
Deanery: Liverpool South
Archdeaconry: Liverpool

The Context

The Parish of St Peter's Much Woolton is in the Deanery of Liverpool South, Merseyside who are embarking on a development of a strategy for mission and church growth that is aligned to the Diocesan strategy of 'Fit for Mission.'

Woolton was incorporated into Liverpool in 1913 but there remains a strong village identity and a sense of local civic pride and belonging. Woolton is generally considered to be a desirable place to live with many amenities for all ages. It has excellent transport links with regular bus services and rail stations close by.

Woolton is perceived by many as being a rich and genteel part of the City with property prices in a lot of the Parish reflecting this. This is, however, only partially true. There is a wide spectrum of people living in the Parish with some facing significant challenges caused by debt, old age and loneliness.

The population of the Council ward of Woolton is 12,900 and has been largely static for some time. The age of the population is skewed towards the range 45-74 and the least represented population age is 20-24.

There are two other churches in the Parish (St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and St. James' Methodist Church). We have good relationships with both churches. Our clergy meet on a regular basis and each year we look forward to Good Friday when we gather together in the centre of the village to witness to our shared faith in our crucified Lord.

There are several schools in the parish most notably Bishop Martin Primary school (Church of England) which is next door to the Church building and has very close links with the Church. There are other primary and secondary schools in the area with some faith-based and others operated solely by the local authority.

St Peter's Church is internationally famous because it is the place where John Lennon and Paul McCartney first met and, for this reason, is an important tourist destination. We endeavour to be good stewards of our important Beatles heritage providing all of our Beatles visitors with a positive encounter whilst remaining faithful to our primary purpose as a church which is to witness to the love of God.

The Leadership role:

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

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 the Ministerial Development Review as well as through regular meetings with your colleagues) 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 leaders and teams.
6. Identify and encourage the gifts of others, 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 and Deanery, and also the local ecumenical setting, and as part of that context to establish and maintain good collaborative working relationships with other clergy and with lay colleagues.
8. Lead your congregations both to pray for justice in the Church and the world and to recognize 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.

The Priorities:

- To fully support and encourage the church to participate in the conversations around Fit for Mission.
- Develop a collaboratively coherent vision plan for engaging with the community
- A compassionate use of occasional offices for both mission and caring for the community
- Develop new ministries within the church and community, especially the school.
- Encourage all people to live out their faith in their everyday lives – 'whole life disciples'.
- Have a heart for children and older members alike, recognising their pastoral needs and strengthening the ministry to all ages and backgrounds.
- To build up, equip and release other leaders encouraging all to develop their skills for God's work.
- To preach confidently and inspire the congregations.
- To create and develop missional ways to engage in the local community through the Hub and beyond, interacting with local community leaders and agencies to serve the common good.
- Be able to minister and support the existing traditional and contemporary styles of worship.

Other Key Responsibilities:

What are the other required key tasks that the new clergy person will need to do to support the priorities articulated above.

- Committed to supporting and encouraging families in their faith through the various groups.
- Effective stewardship including increasing parish income encouraging the church family to be generous with their time, talents and money, looking at stewardship as a fundamental part of discipleship and to understand the realities of church finances
- To ensure that the commitment to safeguarding, along with others (safeguarding officer and the PCC,) is maintained and remains of paramount importance.
- Enhance and develop the pastoral work and prayer life of the church.
- Communicate well in all its forms, especially using social media for this purpose.
- Be sympathetic and understanding of the diverse nature of modern day society.
- Support the church to work collaboratively with the Deanery including by engagement in chapter and synod.

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.

Being part of the Clergy Team in Liverpool Diocese

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. Bishop Paul has articulated a vision for this growth by saying

“We are asking God for a bigger church so we can make a bigger difference”; said another way, “We long to see more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world.”

To achieve this vision we are working to develop:

- **100 new congregations**
- **1000 new leaders**
- **10,000 new disciples**

Further, we are asking every worshipping Christian in our diocese to:

1. Sign up to the Bishop of Liverpool’s rule of life which will encourage and support us to Pray, Read, Learn, Tell, Serve, Give, **#RuleOfLife** www.ruleoflife.org.uk
2. Bring 1 person into the regular worshipping and serving life of the church **#BringOneFriend** www.liverpool.anglican.org/BringOneFriend
3. Do 10 acts of service or find 10 new points of connection beyond the walls of the church **#DoTenThings** www.liverpool.anglican.org/DoTenThings

