

Diocese of HEREFORD

ROLE DESCRIPTION

for the Rector of the Arrowvale Group of Parishes

See also the person specification designed for the same Group

Role description signed off by the Archdeacon of Hereford Date: 20 July 2016

To be reviewed with the Archdeacon six months after commencement of appointment

1 Details of post

Role title (as on licence): Rector

Name of benefice: Arrowvale Group *[comprising the parishes of Byton; Lyonshall; Pembridge with Moorcourt; Shobdon; and Staunton-on-Arrow]*

Deanery: Kington and Weobley

Archdeaconry: Hereford

Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Hereford

2 Role purpose

General

- To share with the diocesan Bishop in the cure of souls; and with all God's people in discerning and joining in the mission of God within the benefice, deanery and diocese, working collaboratively with all relevant colleagues in accordance with the diocese's strategic priorities.
- To show due regard for their own personal and spiritual well-being, in particular in the Ministry Development Review programme.
- To undertake the responsibilities specified in the Canons and Ordinal, ensuring the appropriate provision of pastoral care and of the ministries of word and sacrament, so that all may find opportunities to grow in faith as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Specific

1. To be a person of prayer able to help develop the prayer life within the parishes, teaching the Gospel of Christ and encouraging the use of the Bible.

2. To grow the churches, especially among younger people: by personal example and by training lay people as effective witnesses, and by helping the congregations to become easier to join.
3. To provide pastoral care for church members and the wider community.
4. To further develop co-operation and sharing of gifts between parishes in the benefice.
5. To deliver clear, encouraging and gracious teaching about Christian stewardship, to the effect that church finances improve and stress about financial matters is addressed.
6. To develop ministry amongst young people and children, and particularly to build on the opportunities provided by our schools;
7. To encourage the parishes in caring for their historic church buildings, and to turn those buildings into assets for mission;
8. To ensure that the Benefice plays its full part in the life of the wider church.

3 Key contacts

Key contacts/relationships within the benefice and deanery include:

Generic

- Wardens and licensed ministers
- Members of the PCCs.
- Deanery chapter
- Head teachers of the local schools (one voluntary aided church primary, one community primary)

Specific

- The Rural Dean, Revd Preb. Steve Hollinghurst (a former incumbent of this benefice)
- Lay Co-Chair of Deanery Synod, Mrs Elizabeth Shayler

Supportive

The Archdeacon of Hereford who will help you review this role description when you are six months into post

The Diocesan CMD Adviser, Revd Nick Helm

Support Ministers are available via the diocesan office, notably:

Revd John Daniels, Lay Ministry Officer
Revd Caroline Pascoe, Lay Development Officer
[incl. Mission Action Planning]
Mrs Lizzie Hackney, Children and Families Support Officer
Mrs Wendy Coombey, Community Partnership Funding Officer
Mr Tim Bridges, Church Buildings Support Officer

4 Role context and any other relevant information

The Arrowvale Parishes are evolving from a loose collection with little in common apart from geography, into an affectionate and mutually-supportive benefice. The glass is half-full.

The congregations include many gifted and active people; but as yet the potential to develop lay ministries – especially lay leadership in worship, teaching and pastoral ministry – is largely untapped. There are shining exceptions to this rule which show that a more developed lay ministry pattern would be broadly welcomed. The Diocese is eager to provide support and guidance in this area.

The congregations include people of a variety of theological traditions, although middle-of-the-road Anglicanism is predominant. The Rector must be able to work with everyone. In a village setting, many worshippers come originally from other Christian denominations.

The benefice includes some stunning church buildings, including churches of national importance (Shobdon recently had over £1m spent on a restoration). However they are not yet developed as centres for 21st century mission – as they surely should be.

5 Benefice summary

<i>Parishes:</i>	Five, as described in the Statement of Needs
<i>Patrons:</i>	Bp of Hereford; Dean & Chapter of Hereford; Church Patronage Trust; Mrs Ella Whitehead; Mr Christopher Whitehead; Hereford Diocesan Board of Patronage.
<i>PCCs:</i>	Five
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Byton: Simon Edwards, Steve Weaver Lyonsall: Pat Addis, Anthony Mills Pembridge w Moorcourt: Jacqui Thomas, Gill Smith Shobdon: Caroline Jones Staunton on Arrow: Richard Bowen
<i>Ministers:</i>	1 retired clergy with Permission to Officiate (who, however, wishes to reduce his involvement); 1 active Reader

<i>Buildings:</i>	5 parish churches. Moorcourt (daughter church of Pembridge) describes itself as a “tin tabernacle” but should not be underestimated. Other buildings: rectory; VA church school
<i>Churchyards:</i>	5 all open
<i>Population:</i>	2,500
<i>Average Sunday Attendance:</i>	108 [2009 figure]
<i>Parish share:</i>	£51762 requested in 2016. In 2017, the Diocese moves from Share to an Offer system. The Benefice has offered £49922. This disappointing across-the-board reduction conceals some complexities, as parishes help one another out.
<i>Expenses:</i>	Reimbursed in full
<i>Petition concerning women’s ministry:</i>	Not passed. The previous two rectors were women, and most of those who attended the Section 11 meeting were surprised to think that anyone could still object.
<i>Church tradition:</i>	Varied
<i>Pastoral reorganisation:</i>	None pending or anticipated. Lyonshall was the last parish to be added to the group, in 1999, and is particularly conscious of its identity.
<i>Outreach/service:</i>	Church school in Pembridge; community school in Shobdon.