

Role Description

Priest in Charge



Signed off by:

Archdeacon of Knowsley and Sefton

Date:

December 2017

1. Details of the post

Role title:

Priest in Charge

Name of benefice:

SS John and James Orrell Hey and St Philip's Litherland

Deanery:

Sefton South

Archdeaconry:

Knowsley and Sefton

Initial point of contact on Clergy Terms of Service: The Diocesan Secretary

Please note that this Role Description focuses on the particular needs and opportunities of the Litherland group of churches. It should be read and understood in conjunction with the Bishop's Statement and the parish profile and, for the successful candidate, alongside the Bishop's formal letter of appointment.

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 parish 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 and with the area dean and signed off by the archdeacon.

Archdeacon's Statement

The 3 churches of the proposed Litherland and Orrell Hey Team Ministry are already collaborating and developing a common vision for their work. There are growing relationships between them all and so this appointment of a priest in charge comes at a crucial time. There is a lot of potential and a gifted team of lay people to work with. Each church has their own opportunities and challenges and it is not expected that the new priest in charge will be expected to do everything!

Nevertheless, whoever is appointed will need to shape and develop the structure of the team so that it works effectively. The relationship of the team council to the PCCs, for example, will need to be worked out. Whilst the Diocese believes that uniting parishes with one PCC is desirable, the PCCs felt at this stage, they would prefer the creation of a team ministry. The Diocese will support the priest in charge in the consultations leading to the necessary pastoral scheme in which the priest in charge would be named as the Team Rector.

The priest in charge will also be part of the appointment of another priest in charge, role description to be agreed, who would be the new Team Vicar. There are 2 vicarages and so the priest in charge will be able to choose the most suitable one.

Whoever is appointed will be fully supported by the Diocese through its Fresh Start initiative for all those moving to a new post

Role Responsibilities

A priest shares with the Bishop both the privilege and responsibility of oversight within the Church and is charged with leading God's people in the offering of praise, the proclamation of the gospel, the celebration of the sacraments and the mission of God. This privilege and responsibility will be exercised with due regard to servant leadership, mutual ministry and personal example and a commitment to maintaining and developing personal spirituality and wellbeing

Entrusted with the inheritance of faith in Christ's church, a priest is also charged to be faithful in the stewardship of church finances; the mutuality of parish share which underpins ministry and mission in our diocese; oversight of church governance; care of the church building and PCC property, and encouraging the vocation of God's people to discern their vocation and to exercise their ministry, lay and ordained. The outworking of this charge will include the following

Vision, mission and purpose

- To enable the Litherland and Orrell Hey team to grow in depth and breadth
- To develop a vision for mission and growth within a diverse team

Leadership, collaboration and releasing lay ministry

- To encourage people to use their gifts in the service of God and release more people to take up leadership positions and consider their vocation.
- To think strategically and work collaboratively with the SSM, Team Council, PCCs, wardens, Readers, interim and retired clergy and Children and Families worker

Welcome and nurture

- To stimulate interest in Jesus' call to make disciples
- To ensure the Litherland and Orrell Hey team is a place where all ages are welcomed and in which people can grow in their faith and understanding of the Christian faith.

Reflecting, learning and change

- To explore with the team council the vision God has for Litherland and Orrell Hey
- To lead the churches in the team through change sensitively and carefully

Actively engaging with the wider community

- To make the most of the opportunities presented by the occasional offices
- To think imaginatively about ways of reaching for Christ those who live in the community

Actively engaging children and young people

- To support work with children, young families and teenagers and further develop the churches' mission in schools.

Other key tasks

- To play a full part in the life and strategic development of Sefton South deanery and its clergy chapter
- To participate in the ecumenical life of Litherland and Orrell Hey