

CHURCH OF ENGLAND - BENEFICE OF LOWER TEESDALE
RECTOR FOR THE BENEFICE OF LOWER TEESDALE



St Giles' Bowes



St Cuthbert Cotherstone



St Mary Brignall



Holy Trinity Startforth



St Romald Romaldkirk



Laithkirk Parish Church

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Archdeacon's signature:

Date: 4 March 2025

1. Details of the post:

Role Title: Rector for the Benefice of Lower Teesdale – incorporating the Parish of Startforth with Brignall, the Parish of Bowes, the Parish of Romaldkirk and the Parish of Laithkirk

Patron: The Right Honourable Simon Patrick Bowes Lyon 19th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne.

Episcopal Area: The Episcopal Area of Ripon

Archdeaconry: Archdeaconry of Richmond and Craven

Deanery: Deanery of Richmond

Initial point of contact on terms of service: Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven

The main purpose of the role is to share in *“building confident Christians, growing churches and transforming communities”* in line with the Diocesan vision.

2. Role purpose:

- To lead our Worship
- To listen to the experience and expectations of the parishioners in order to understand more about the needs of the local area and about what has been successful/unsuccessful in the past
- To work with the PCCs to formulate and deliver the mission priorities
- To explore innovative ways of working together
- To engage with young people and our local Primary schools
- To help Churches re-energize and grow
- To follow the Green Environmental Mission of the Church

3. **Role Context:**

The Benefice of Lower Teesdale is in the far north west of the Diocese of Leeds, with Barnard Castle, as the main regional centre (although located in the Diocese of Durham). The six communities serve a mainly rural area.

The Rector appointed will serve these lively communities with a good mix of age ranges, with two Primary Schools, one of which is Church of England aided. Employment is in a range of industries, farming, services, tourism and pharmaceuticals (Glaxo Smith Kline). His Majesty's Young Offender Institution (HMYOI) Deerbolt is also situated locally with a dedicated Chaplaincy team. Unemployment across the Benefice is very low at less than 2%.

The tradition of the churches is central, rural with a reverence for the Sacraments and an expectation of good preaching. There is one Reader, and considerable assistance is given by retired Clergy. The churches all have active lay involvement with a good record of on the ground engagement. These people are keen to work with a Rector who will help them to reach out to families and younger people, to deepen discipleship and understanding of the faith and to encourage the gifts in every member.

4. **Benefice Summary:**

Parishes: The Parish of Startforth with Brignall, the Parish of Bowes, the Parish of Romalldkirk and the Parish of Laithkirk

Patrons: The other three turns are not applicable at this time. They are: His Majesty the King; the Bishop of Leeds in his corporate capacity; the Lords in Trust of the Ancient Manor of Bowes and the Leeds Board of Patronage, who jointly have the third and fourth turns.

PCCs: 4

Churchwardens: 5

Clergy: Rector

Readers: 1

Buildings: St Giles Bowes Grade 2, St Mary Brignall Grade 2, St Cuthbert Cotherstone n/a, Laithkirk (no dedication) Grade 2, St Romald Romalldkirk Grade 1, Holy Trinity Startforth Grade 2

Population: 4215 (overall increase – largely due to new housing developments in Startforth)

Average Sunday attendance across Benefice: 50

Expenses: Paid in full

Resolution: None

Church Tradition: Open

Pastoral reorganisation proposals: It was agreed by the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee that a new Pastoral scheme of two Parishes and two PCC's be pursued. This has been held in abeyance since the Interregnum.