

Role Description

Signed off by: Archdeacon of Liverpool
Date: 16/10/24
Role title: Rector, Our Lady & St Nicholas, Liverpool
Deanery: Liverpool North & Walton

The Context

This is a key role within the spiritual, civic and community ecology of Liverpool city centre. Liverpool Parish Church occupies a unique position, working alongside Liverpool Cathedral in relating to civic and corporate city partners. The church has a particular historical relationship with the maritime and naval communities, relating to the docks, which includes the history of the transatlantic trade in enslaved people. The seafront part of the parish includes continued maritime use, and also considerable leisure and tourism in the restored Albert Dock area. The Eurovision song contest is an example of high profile cultural events that take place within the parish. A little further along, dramatic residential and commercial development of old dock areas are currently taking place. The parish includes the Liverpool 1 major shopping development and the commercial, cultural and civic heart of the city.

This is therefore a vibrant and exciting place to live and work, and the post holder will need to be someone who enjoys working across a variety of networks and who will find personal flourishing in engaging with the civic aspects of the role. The deanery includes areas of significant urban deprivation, alongside and often overlapping with dynamic businesses, culture and the arts. The church is a key partner with significant convening power in all these areas, and the Rector of Liverpool will be expected to continue this work and be skilled at it. You will need to be comfortable working with partners of all faiths and none, and will be looked to as a leader in bringing together different faith leaders to advise and consult with both the bishop and elected city leaders.

The new Rector will join the Deanery of Liverpool North & Walton at an exciting but also potentially contested time of considerable change, as the Deanery is just entering into Cohort 3 of the diocesan change programme Fit for Mission (please do read about this on the diocesan website here: <https://liverpoolcofe.org/fitformission/>). It is the diocesan hope that the new Rector will be able to lead the parish into embracing the significant culture change that this new way of working will bring, so it is important that applicants fully understand and are themselves committed to working in this newly collaborative way.

The Priorities:

- Be an inspiring leader of worship, preacher and teacher, helping all those who encounter the church to encounter God and deepen their discipleship
- Quickly establish good working relationships in the city, with the cathedral, and with ecumenical and interfaith colleagues, as well as with the parish team
- Proactively engage with the civic leadership of the city
- Step confidently and joyfully into leadership in the ongoing Fit for Mission process and lead the parish in embracing their role within this journey of change
- Build on the established inclusive, artistic and cultural credentials of the church in ways which introduce people to Jesus and work for justice

The Leadership role 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. We have articulated a vision for this growth by saying

**we are asking God for a bigger church so that we can make a bigger difference:
more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world.**

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 Christian leaders and teams.
6. Encourage vocations by identifying the gifts of others and 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, Deanery and local ecumenical setting by establishing and maintaining good collaborative working relationships with clergy and 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.

Housing

The Team Rector will be provided with housing for the better performance of their duties. The parsonage house is in Woodlands Road. This is a relatively modern detached house, with 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and 3 reception rooms (dining room, study and spacious living room).

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.